CHARACTERS

AND

ANECDOTES

OF THE

COURT of SWEDEN.

Virtue ſtands firmer when ſuſtain'd by Fame;
And Faults take warning from a temper'd blame.

IN TWO VOLUMES.

VOL. II.

LONDON:

PRINTED FOR ELIZABETH HARLOW,
NO. 76, ST. JAMES'S STREET.

M.DCC.XC.

BRITISH MUSEUM

CONTENTS

OF THE

SECOND VOLUME.

CHAPTER XII.

PRINCIPLES of the preſent form of Government in Sweden. The *Porte-feuille* of Foreign Affairs in the King's own guard. The offices of Prime Miniſter or High Chancellor of the Kingdom; by whom occupied. The Secretaries of State in the three branches of Adminiſtration: the Civil Department, the Military, and that of the Finances. The high officers of the Kingdom, and Members of the former Senate who have been retained in their reſpective places.

CHAPTER XIII.

Anecdotes relating to the life of his Excellency Count Axel Ferſen, and his ſhare in the public affairs. An account of the Diet of 1756, and the unhappy cataſtrophe of Count Brahe and others engaged in a conſpiracy againſt the Swediſh conſtitution.

The war againſt Pruſſia. The French party inſinuate themſelves into the favour of the Court: by what means. Count Ferſen's influence in the government. His undaunted courage, and other perſonal qualities; the ſtate of his private affairs.

CHAPTER XIV.

Anecdotes relating to the life and character of the late Count Charles Scheffer. His deep knowledge in politics united to all the accompliſhments in the line of belles-lettres. He ſucceeds to the late Count Teſſin as Governor to the Prince Royal, now King of Sweden. Deprived of his place in the Senate, he refuſes to accept of it again when offered. Though leading a retired life, he devotes himſelf entirely to the ſervice of his country. The reaſons for his co-operating in the Revolution of 1772. His care of public œconomy. Inſtitution of the Royal Patriotic Society. Prizes eſtabliſhed for œconomical queſtions and ſeveral branches of practical huſbandry. Prizes for reſtoring drowned perſons to life. Œconomical journal. Medal in memory of Count Scheffer's patriotiſm. His zealous care of the poor and ſick. His eſtabliſhment for female orphans. His marriage. His taſte for gardening and agriculture. His private life. An account of his *Principles of OEconomical Government* and other writings. Anſwer to ſome reflections made on his character. His great forbearance with his friends. His journey to Achen. His death. His laſt will executed by his brothers.

CHAP-

CHAPTER XV.

His Excellency Count Ulric Scheffer ſucceeds to Count Ekeblad in the office of Prime Miniſter. Breach between the Scheffers and Count Ferſen. Some favourite ſchemes of the former violently contradicted. Marriage of Count Ulric Scheffer with the widow of Count Brahe. His retreat from the Miniſtry. The Field Marſhal Baron Scheffer reſembles his elder brother in generoſity. Anecdotes relating to the life of the General Count Horn as well in private as public. An account of his ſon and the reſt of his family. The riſe and adminiſtration of his Excellency Baron Lilljencrantz.

CHAPTER XVI.

Anecdotes concerning the late Senator Count Hoepken. With a great genius he made but an indifferent figure in politics. Some particulars relative to his father, whom he reſembles in literary accompliſhments. Foundation of the Swediſh Academy of Sciences. Speech in memory of the late Count Ferſen. Count Hoepken a ſenior in all the literary inſtitutions in his country. An account of his ſon and the reſt of his family.

CHAPTER XVII.

The Duke of Heſſenſtein the only perſon with ſuch a title among the Swediſh Nobility. His origin. His military talents. Has never taken any active part in political

political operations. Had the eſteem and confidence of both parties in Sweden. An account of his family and relations in that country.

CHAPTER XVIII.

The Swediſh Court, open to all ſtrangers of note, furniſhes the beſt occaſion for making acquaintances. An account of ladies who frequent the Drawing-room, with anecdotes relating to their conduct and characters. Two learned General Officers, mentioned on occaſion of their ladies.

CHAPTER XIX.

Continued account of perſons frequenting the Court. The literary merit of Baron Lantinghuſen: Anecdotes relating to his father and the marriage of that nobleman with the only ſiſter of the Counts Ferſen. The character of his Excellency Baron Stael, Swediſh Ambaſſador in France. Reception which foreign ladies meet with in Sweden. Several anecdotes about the polite world in Sweden.

CHAPTER XX.

Deſcription of the drawing-room and public ſuppers. Formalities very much attended to in the Court of Sweden. A viſit paid to the Royal Family by the Prince of Holſtein, Duke-Biſhop of Lubec. The Swediſh dreſs gives an air of greater magnificence to the Court. Deſcription of it for different occaſions.

CHAP-

CHAPTER XXI.

Account of the public aſſemblies at the hall of the Exchange. They are frequented by the Royal family. Diſagreeable adventure of the Counteſs Kagheneck, the Lady of the Emperor's Ambaſſador. Coolneſs between the two Courts on that account. That difference made up during the King's ſtay in Italy. Mention made of Count Kaunitz and his embaſſy in Sweden. The public entertainments very cheap in Sweden. The Swediſh Opera compared with that of Paris.

CHAPTER XXII.

The preſent King diſmiſſes the French players. A circumſtantial account of the Swediſh ſtage, it's origin and progreſs. The inſtitution of the Opera. Liſt of the pieces repreſented, with the authors of the poems and the compoſers of the muſic. Account of the performers in the ſame order as they have appeared on the ſtage. Advantages of a National Opera.

CHAPTER XXIII.

The Opera neglected for the French Play, ſo long as the latter was new; but this deſired entertainment was at laſt deſerted in its turn, for want of ſufficient knowledge of the language among the generality of the public. Eſtabliſhment of a new Swediſh ſtage for repreſenting tragedies and comedies. Benefits for the authors. Prizes diſtributed for pieces. Difficulties

to be overcome. Succeſs of the Inſtitution. Beneficence of his Majeſty for its ſupport. Members of the Committee, and other performers of note. Account of another theatre for comic operas.

CHAPTER XXIV.

The Swediſh language, its origin and analogy with other languages. Societies inſtituted for it's cultivation. The Royal Academy of Belles-Lettres. It's inſtitution by the late Queen Dowager, ſupported by the preſent King. Foreign, Honorary, and Ordinary Members of the Society. The new eſtabliſhed Swediſh Academy. Members of that Society. Their occupation. Account of Swediſh poetry.

CHAPTER XXV.

Hiſtory of the Royal Orders in Sweden. That of Seraphim. Its antiquity. Reſtored to it's former luſtre by King Fredericus. Obligations of the Knights. Marks and dreſs of the Order. The Military Order or that of the Sword. Re-eſtabliſhed by King Fredericus. Marks and dreſs of the Order. Alterations in the ſtatutes by King Guſtavus III. The Order of the Polar Star, inſtituted by King Fredericus. Regulations. The Order of Vaſa inſtituted by the preſent King. Object and regulation of that Order. The Order of Amaranth mentioned.

CHARACTERS AND ANECDOTES OF THE COURT of SWEDEN.

CHAPTER XII.

ACCORDING to the principle of the preſent form of government in Sweden, no new taxes can be impoſed, and no new laws eſtabliſhed, without the conſent of the people through their repreſentatives, who in conſequence are to aſſemble as often as the King finds it neceſſary.

The whole adminiſtrative and executive power belongs to the King; all the officers of the kingdom, military, civil, and eccleſiaſtical, are choſen and authoriſed by him, and accountable to him alone.

Except the Supreme Court for the adminiſtration of juſtice, already mentioned, the whole weight of government lays on his Majeſty's own ſhoulders; the different departments of ſtate are directly under his own eyes; it is by him they are put to work; it is to him all buſineſs is referred before any thing can be put in execution.

All miniſtereal matters are commonly diſpatched by the King himſelf, or through his Secretary, Mr. Van Aſp, who has the

parte

porte feuille of foreign affairs. This gentleman, brought up and formed to ſuch buſineſs by his Majeſty's Ambaſſadors, Baron V. Nolcken, in England, and the late Count Creutz, in France, is known for abilities equal to the importance of his place.

It was lately filled by his predeceſſor, Mr. Franck, with great diſtinction; but as the Monarch is himſelf indefatigable, this department gives too much work for one perſon. Very few will be able to reſiſt the fatigue ſo long as Mr. Franck has done. The King at laſt granted him his retreat, with the rank and pay of a Secretary of State, and the exerciſe of that employment at the firſt vacancy.

The pomp and appearance of Miniſtry is kept up by their Excellencies Count Oxenſtierna and Count Duben, aſſociated in the exerciſe of the High Chancellorſhip of the kingdom.

Count Oxenſtierna is looked upon as a genius of the firſt order, but who has not been very forward of promoting himſelf. He was ſeveral years Secretary of the Swediſh Embaſſy at Vienna, and at his return home, he ſtaid ſome time at the Queen Dowager's Court, and was only known by a diſtinguiſhed talent for poetry. The King dining one day with the Queen Dowager at her ſummer Palace Swartſioe, teſtified ſome aſtoniſhment that a Count Oxenſtierna, now living in her Court, was not

invited to her table; ſhe excuſed herſelf with his want of an employment that could give him the rank required for ſuch an honour. The King ſaid no more on that occaſion, but requeſting the Count to wait upon him in town, he appointed him a Chamberlain in the Royal Court, and preſented him as ſuch to the Queen on the next viſit he paid her at Swartſioe.

Though now in a good way leading to the firſt places in the kingdom, yet the Count attended very aſſiduouſly to a ſmall employment he had in the Department of Foreign Affairs to keep himſelf in practice. Having ſome years later been raiſed, with five more of the King's Chamberlains, to the rank of

Firſt Gentleman or Lord of the Bed-Chamber, he was alſo appointed an Honorary Member of the Board of Chancery, where he now takes place as Preſident; a prerogative always belonging to the Prime Miniſter. In this place he ſucceeded to the late Count Creutz, and had been made a Senator on purpoſe. The King had already bought the houſe of the late Count Charles Ferſen, for a perpetual reſidence for the Prime Miniſters, and now his Majeſty made alſo the purchaſe of the elegant furniture and even the library of Count Creutz, and left the houſe as it ſtood to the uſe of Count Oxenſtierna.

It is alſo plentifully provided with plate

plate and other neceſſaries, for the reception of the foreign Ambaſſadors, to whom his Excellency gives frequent entertainments.

Though the ſkill and abilities of Count Oxenſtierna may perhaps be compared to any Miniſter in Europe, yet his chief merit with his maſter is, perhaps, that he never offers his opinion but when aſked, and never inſiſts upon it, when he finds the King of a contrary ſentiment. King Guſtavus is fond of governing by himſelf; and though he greatly admires and values the qualities of the famous Axel Oxenſtierna, Chancellor of the kingdom under the reign of King Guſtavus Adolphus and that

of his daughter Chriſtina, yet I think a Miniſter, of the Chancellor's daring and inflexible character, could not long maintain himſelf in the King's favour.

Count Duben, alſo a very worthy member of the former Senate, had paſſed a great part of his life in the Court of the late King, and has all the appearance and manners of the moſt accompliſhed courtier. As he has always been in the ſecret of all the intrigues and different intereſts of the Court, as well as of the proceedings of the former parties in Sweden, he has a great deal of knowledge in politics, though he has not before appeared in that line. A conſtant perſonal attachment to the

Royal

Royal Family may alſo perhaps be regarded as a reaſon for his preſent truſt.

Among the Secretaries of State, Mr. Schroederheim is the eldeſt in office: he has the Civil Department, and is come to ſuch an eminent place of honour very young, having made his way merely by his talents, and uſeful ſervices to his Maſter. Though he is of very agreeable ſocial qualities, and likes good company as well as any man in the world, yet he has few his equals in unremitted application to buſineſs. He has therefore very little time to attend to his own affairs, which in conſequence are ſuppoſed not to be in the beſt order; and this is the more probable

probable, becauſe he has ſo good a heart that he would give his laſt ſhilling to the poor, of whom there are a great number waiting on him every morning. But the King's favour has ſupported him to the preſent time, and will probably continue to do ſo. He has formerly been accuſed of making his clients pay his ſervices; it may be poſſible: but to my certain knowledge, he has often employed himſelf in favour of people of merit, who would have thought it an offence, to offer any other acknowledgment than their eſteem and gratitude.

The War Department is looked upon as the richeſt in lawful emoluments. The

preſent

preſent Secretary of State is Mr. Carlſon. He is very much eſteemed in reſpect to his perſonal character, and known in the literary world by his cabinet of Ornithology, of which there is publiſhing a magnificent deſcription at his private expence.

Baron Ruth ſucceeded in the Department of the Finances to Baron Lilljencrantz, who having ſeveral times demanded his diſmiſſion, was provided with a place in the Senate. Though it has been ſaid, that the preſent Secretary of State did not find the Treaſury in the moſt flouriſhing condition, yet the greateſt ſucceſs he may poſſibly aſpire to, is to keep up matters in the ſame ſtate in which he found them.

It was of great ſervice to his reputation, that he had been a very good œconomiſt to himſelf as well as to the Duke of Sudermania, whom he cleared of all his debts at a very eaſy rate. I wiſh he could do the ſame with the kingdom.

By the means of five or ſix perſons juſt mentioned, the government is kept in the ſame activity, as formerly by the cooperation of the whole Senate. It has been reported, that when Count Axel Ferſen took his leave of the Senate, his pretended reaſon was, that neither himſelf nor his fellow Senators were of the leaſt

uſe

uſe to their country, and that there was never an example of ſuch a ſuperfluous expence as that of the King of Sweden, when he paid ſixteen Privy-Counſellors, without ever aſking the advice of one among them.

Thoſe who ſeem to be ſtill remaining of the former Senate, are only thoſe high officers of the kingdom, who, without regard to their place among that illuſtrious order, have enjoyed the ſame rank and prerogatives by the nature of their reſpective offices. Such are,

The Duke of Heſſenſtein, Governor of the

the Swediſh Provinces in Germany; of whom more in a following chapter.

His Excellency Count Bonde, High Marſhal of the kingdom and of the King's Houſhold, is of the antient family of Bonde already mentioned in the fourth chapter, and the fifteenth Senator of that race in an uninterrupted ſucceſſion from father to ſon. As the only ſon of his elder brother died ſome years ago unmarried, the poſſeſſions of the family are now aſſembled in one hand.

His Excellency Baron Charles Sparre, Governor of Stockholm, is alſo of a very antient and illuſtrious family, one of his anceſtors having married the daughter of

King

King Eric XI. of Sweden. Baron Sparre was Chief Commiſſioner for proviſioning the Army, in the Pruſſian war; and after the peace he was rewarded with the Government of Gefleborg, in the north of Sweden. Here he made himſelf ſo much admired and beloved, that it was chiefly to his popularity that he owed the preferment to his preſent place, in which his conduct has not fallen ſhort of his former reputation.

His Excellency Count Beckfries, is of an illuſtrious and opulent family in Denmark, from whence his anceſtors removed into Sweden. He has, ever ſince he came into the Senate, been a Member of the Supreme Court of Juſtice; and is ſo well

acquainted

acquainted with the buſineſs of that department, that his Majeſty has thought him neceſſary for the conſolidation of the new eſtabliſhment, where he relieves the Lord Chief Juſtice in the Preſidency.

CHAP.

CHAPTER XIII.

AMONG ſeveral perſons mentioned in the preceding chapters, there are ſome who deſerve a more particular attention.

Count Axel Ferſen, though of a very ancient family, may yet be ſaid to be the firſt who has given any great illuſtration to the name in Sweden.

Being by birth attached to the French intereſt, and having given early ſymptoms of a genius capable of great enterprizes and an undaunted conſtancy in their ex-

ecution, he was ſo warmly recommended by Count Teſſin and others of the ſame party in Sweden, that the French Miniſtry appointed him a Colonel in the ſervice of that kingdom, and truſted him with the command of a regiment, before he had commanded a company in his own country.

But his foreign preferment having opened him the way to greater honours at home, his knowledge in political matters rendered him neceſſary to his friends; and a ſhort time after his return into Sweden he became one of the leaders of the French party.

In the memorable year 1756, he was elected

elected Marſhal of the Diet; having had for a competitor the Count Brahe, who was ſupported by the Ruſſian party. The election of Count Ferſen being carried only by a ſingle voice, there was in the courſe of the Diet a continual ſtruggle for the ſuperiority: but the prudent meaſures and ſteady conduct of Count Ferſen gained him more and more the confidence of the Members, and his party had alſo in the other Orders a plurality of voices, that left little proſpect of their opponents ſucceſs, though the intereſt of the Court was in favour of the latter.

Count Brahe, who had a great deal more ambition than ſkill, has been accuſed of deſigns to raiſe his own grandeur, even

to the ruin of his country; for no other conſequence could reaſonably be expected from entruſting an arbitrary power in the hands of two foreigners; of whom one, though with the beſt intentions for his country, ſaw himſelf continually obliged to give up all other conſiderations for domeſtic peace; and the other, looking upon her ſubjects only as ſo many tools for promoting her intereſt, thought it the greateſt honour for them to ſacrifice their lives in purſuing her violent ſchemes: ſuch was alſo the conſequence of a plot detected on this occaſion, and for the execution of which Count Brahe had been flattered with a Dukedom.

One of the King's footmen, of the name

name of Ernſt, was employed to raiſe a party among the mob; and having for that purpoſe been drinking with a ſoldier of the Guards, he related to him in confidence ſeveral circumſtances, which the ſoldier related to his ſerjeant, who again thought it his duty to acquaint his officers with what he had heard; and Count Creutz, Enſign in the regiment, was the perſon he applied to, who inſtantly reported it to Count Ferſen.

As the Count had the military command in the capital, it was eaſy for him to take all neceſſary meaſures againſt the execution of any intended revolt; but either he did not think the intelligence of ſufficient authenticity, or otherwiſe he

wiſhed to give the accuſed perſons an opportunity of eſcaping; no ſtep was taken againſt them but in a public manner. The Count having given notice to the Secret Committee of the Diet, it was reſolved that Ernſt ſhould be taken into cuſtody and tried as ſoon as poſſible. This determination being publicly known, Count Hard, with ſeveral others, took the hint, and by a ſudden retreat ſaved themſelves; but Count Brahe either had too much pride to withdraw from the danger, or relied on the protection of the Court; and could not be prevailed upon to retire, though entreated by his father in law, Count Piper, and ſeveral other of his neareſt friends: the conſequence was, that Count Brahe, together with Baron Horn,

and

and ſeveral other accomplices of inferior note, were condemned to loſe their heads on the ſcaffold.

The Counteſs Brahe having in vain begged an audience of Count Ferſen, waited for him at the foot of the ſtairs, and on her knees ſupplicated for the life of her huſband, but to no purpoſe; the Count, though no enemy to the fair ſex, was never diſpoſed to give up juſtice or political vengeance to the tears of beauty: the ſentence was executed without mercy.

The citizens of the capital were more compaſſionate, and ſecretly offered to take up arms to reſcue the Count, if King Adolphus would appear at their head; but

either the goodneſs of the King's heart ſuggeſted to him hopes that the priſoners would be pardoned, or he foreſaw that a civil war would be the conſequence of openly declaring himſelf againſt the Diet, he for this time reſiſted all the vehement eloquence of the Queen, and abſolutely refuſed to interfere in the buſineſs: but ſuch was the effervesſence of the turbulent ſpirits in this Diet, that this good and peaceable King hardly eſcaped being dethroned, as having by his connivance in the Queen's participation in the ſcheme of the conſpirators, forfeited his right to the throne. The queſtion was really moved in the Secret Committee, and remained undecided for three days.

I make

I make no doubt but the animoſity againſt the Court co-operated afterwards with the money of France, to make Sweden participate in the hoſtilities againſt the King of Pruſſia. This war furniſhed a new career for the talents of Count Ferſen: it is true that he ſeldom found himſelf charged with the execution of an enterprize; but in the Council of War, his opinion commonly proved the beſt. When the Pruſſian General Mantheufel was taken priſoner by a Swediſh party, who in purſuing the enemy penetrated within the gates of Anclam, Count Ferſen had foreſeen ſuch an event, and the place ſhould have been taken by ſurpriſe, had his advice been followed.

When,

When, at laſt, this war proved very unſucceſsful, and the diſcontent of the nation gave a conſiderable preponderance to the oppoſite party, Count Ferſen and his friends found means to inſinuate themſelves into the favour of the Court, and have ever ſince preſerved that advantage; until the increaſing authority of the preſent King put the Nobles on their guard againſt a power, capable of reducing their privileges within the bounds of the common rights of citizens.

The ſcheme employed by Count Ferſen for working a favourable change in the diſpoſition of the Court in regard to his party, was of a very happy invention.

The

The Swedes, being indebted to the mediation of the Queen for a tolerable peace with her brother, were in ſome meaſure reconciled to her interference in political matters; and it was a great deal owing to her influence that Baron Rudbeck was elected Marſhal of the Diet in the year 1765.

This Nobleman, having received numerous marks of favour from the Court, on account of his apparent zeal and repeated promiſes, to do every thing in his power to promote the Queen's intereſt, and procure a more extended authority for her ſpouſe, was obliged in honour to make a trial; but as a prevailing party is never fond of giving up any part of it's prerogatives,

gatives, this ſubject was conſtantly deferred under various pretexts; and when the Queen grew at laſt impatient, and inſiſted upon the execution of the Baron's engagement, it was agreed between the leaders of the party, that the queſtion ſhould be propoſed; as they thought it could not fail of being contradicted by the oppoſite party, and produce a ballot, in which a certain number of the majority ſhould vote with the oppoſition, on purpoſe to produce a negative, which would naturally be attributed to the great efforts of Count Ferſen and his friends.

The Count having purchaſed this intelligence by a conſiderable ſum of money, communicated the ſecret to his party, and entreated

entreated them not to utter a ſingle word againſt the propoſition. Thus the motion having been made without the leaſt contradiction from the ſide whence it was expected, the majority were obliged to oppoſe it themſelves, for fear it ſhould be looked upon as approved by the unanimous conſent of the Houſe.

This ſtate of the deliberation having been reported at Court, rouſed the indignation of the Queen againſt thoſe who had deluded her with hopes they had no intention to realize. Count Ferſen and his party made their beſt of the occaſion, and poſſeſſed themſelves entirely of the confidence and favour of the Court, by whoſe aſſiſtance they ſoon got the better

of

of their antagoniſts, and engroſſed all the advantages of the anticipated Diet of 1769 to themſelves.

It is true that the Court had been flattered with promiſes of great advantage, but this at laſt was reduced to the mere payment of the King and Queen's debts; for as ſoon as the party ſaw themſelves in poſſeſſion of an unbounded power, and had formed a Senate to their liking, they were more anxious about preſerving their ſuperiority than keeping their promiſe. The propoſed *Act of Security*, under pretence of forming the Swediſh Conſtitution upon the model of the Engliſh, ſeemed to appropriate a greater authority to the King than he had before enjoyed;

joyed; but as he was to exercise it in conjunction with the Senate, where he had but two votes out of eighteen, his case would have been nearly the same; without any hopes of redress from the Nation, whose Representatives would have been assembled only when the Senate thought it convenient; and as Count Fersen had taken care to have the Senate filled with his relations and adherents, it is easy to conclude who would in reality have been King of Sweden, though another bore the name.

Count Fersen has never been fond of appearing in authority, though he always knew how to exercise it through others. The most considerable offices of the king-

dom

dom he had always beſtowed within his family: one of his brothers in law, Count Ekeblad, was a long time Prime-Miniſter; two others, Baron Lantinghuſen and Baron Sparre, have ſucceſſively been Governors of the capital; of the three Counts Delagardie, brothers to the Counteſs Ferſen, one had for a long time the command of the Horſe Guards, and the two others were provided with places of importance at Court, and governments in the provinces. His daughters and nieces, all of them eminently qualified for promoting his influence, are in poſſeſſion of the firſt places about the Court. His brother, the late Count Charles Ferſen, was the only perſon in his family he could not influence; for though bleſſed by nature with

all

all the endowments that make out a great man, he preferred his amuſements to buſineſs, and the favours of beauty to the poſſeſſion of a kingdom. Entirely devoted to mirth and pleaſure, he never could endure the gloomineſs of political faces; wherefore he now and then took the pains to enter into his friend's anxieties and give them good counſels, merely to get rid of them. His brother, when uncertain how to act in ſome particular caſe, uſed to pay him a long viſit, and repeat over and over every circumſtance belonging to the queſtion, and he was almoſt ſure of extorting an advice worthy to be followed.

Though the characters of the two bro-

thers differed very much, yet they agreed in ſome principal points, particularly in a moſt undaunted courage. To ſay nothing of the intrepidity that ever diſtinguiſhed the political conduct of Count Axel Ferſen, one ſingle inſtance of his behaviour in private conteſts will account for the reſpect born him by his enemies, and from which, in the moſt violent diſputes, they never have permitted themſelves to deviate.

A gentleman of great conſideration in the oppoſite faction, and reputed very brave, having thought himſelf offended by contradiction from Count Ferſen, paid him a viſit the following morning, and began to expoſtulate upon the matter in the

the preſence of ſome other viſitors. The Count anſwered nothing till the others were gone: then he aſked the offended gentleman what was the meaning of this diſcourſe; that for his part, he had already told his mind, and had nothing more to add upon the ſubject: and when the other intimated that he thought himſelf injured, and deſired a reparation—" With all my heart," anſwered the Count; " I never put off reſenting an injury, nor giving a proper ſatisfaction;" and ſo he very calmly bolted the door, took his ſword, and put himſelf in a poſture of defence. The other, ſtupefied at this coolneſs, inſtantly abated very much of his reſolution, and finiſhed with aſking the Count's pardon.

The brave always were devoted to the fair: Count Axel Ferſen has been reputed no leſs an admirer of the ſex than his brother; but yet his amours have often appeared ſubſervient to his politics. Such were the chains that tied him to the ear of the Counteſs Ribbing; not that I deny one may have been really in love with that lady; many examples have proved the contrary; but as the affections of Count Ferſen were at that time ſtrongly engaged by another object, and the ſtrict connections of the Counteſs with the French Ambaſſador might prove advantageous to his intereſt, it may be no great miſtake in ſuppoſing his principal motive to have been founded in politics.

But

But even the greateſt men are ſeldom free from reproach. The foible of Count Ferſen is œconomy. Being himſelf a younger brother, and having ſpent a great deal of money in France, he had very little more than the fortune of his wife at his firſt ſetting out in his own country; but after having been Marſhal of ſeveral Diets, he is at preſent one of the richeſt Noblemen in Sweden; and yet it never was the leaſt ſuſpicion, that money had any influence on his public character. It has more been his principle to ſave than to acquire. Of the conſiderable ſums allowed for the Marſhal's table, very little has been ſpent on the Diets. His dinners were commonly neither ſplendid nor much frequented, except by his numerous rela-

tions. The Counteſs had no more than four guineas pin money a month, and if ſhe happened to loſe at cards, ſhe never could get more but by anticipating her allowance for the next month. The ſteward had his orders, and no reaſon was accepted for breaking the regulations.

The only point in which he deviates from the ſtricteſt rules of œconomy, is in building. His houſe in town, formerly belonging to the family of Wachtmeiſter, of which his mother was deſcended, is quite a palace, ſurrounded with gardens, and terraces elevated on vaults and pillars above twenty feet from the ground. The only thing that ſeems to diſagree with this magnificence, is that the wings of ſuch a palace

a palace are built in a low and narrow taſte, adapted to the convenience of poor tra'es-people, to whom they are let preferably to other perſons, becauſe ſhops and manufactories pay a higher rent than common lodgings. There has not been the ſame temptation for ſpoiling the elegant houſe at Liung, his principal country-ſeat in Oſtrogothia; but yet even this ſumptuous building bears ſome marks of miſapplied œconomy, eſpecially the roof; being covered with iron plates, cheaper with regard to the firſt price, but requiring a great attention and a yearly allowance to be kept in repair; inſtead of copper, which is ſubject to no additional charges for it's preſervation.

Count Ferſen has ſeveral other houſes; but thoſe mentioned are his own work, and worthy of his vaſt and lofty genius. His eldeſt ſon will be extremely rich; and among the family houſes left him by his uncle, who had himſelf no male heirs, Steninge, ſituated on the beautiful lake Melar is one of the moſt agreeable places in Sweden. The young Count is Colonel of the regiment of *Royal Svedois* in France; and his perſonal qualities are very well known and eſteemed at the French Court.

CHAP-

CHAPTER XIV.

COUNT Charles Scheffer is no more; but his memory is dear to all who knew him, and his name will be reſpected as long as virtue is valued upon earth. He ſet out early in the world, with all the accompliſhments the moſt liberal education can give, and with thoſe benevolent diſpoſitions which are more common in youth, but which in him were equally warm to the lateſt period of his life. He could not but believe on the goodneſs of the human heart, when he judged of others ſentiments by his own. He is perhaps the firſt politician who made humanity

humanity his principal care. When he was Ambaſſador to the Court of France, a ſcheme of pacification was the firſt ſubject that exerciſed his talents; and though in that reſpect he acted only in a private character, without any orders from his Court, yet his firſt eſſay was received with an uncommon attention; and he had ſo juſtly weighed the intereſt of the belligerent powers, that the articles ſtipulated in the Treaty deviated very little from his plan.

Univerſally beloved in France, and delighting in an intercourſe with the learned as well as the faſhionable world in thoſe regions, he left them with regret, when called

called to the Senatorial Purple in his native country.

The retreat of Count Teſſin having left vacant the place of Governor to the Prince Royal, no one could be found more proper to ſucceed him than our young Senator, who joined to all the great and amiable qualities of Count Teſſin, a greater frankneſs of heart and more ſolid learning. The uncommon accompliſhments of his Royal pupil, as well as the affectionate regard that Prince, in his maturer age, ever paid to the faithful guide of his younger years, are ſo many proofs how well Count Scheffer deſerved ſuch a truſt. Having participated in the fate of his friends in the alternate riſe

and

and fall of the ſtruggling parties in Sweden, and found himſelf deprived of his place in the Senate, he could not be prevailed on to accept it again, as moſt of the other depoſed Senators did: he preferred the moſt retired ſtation in life to the moſt eminent place of honour, in which neither public eſteem, nor the purity of his own conſcience could ſecure him from popular inſult.

He had too much vivacity in his temper to be revengeful: thus I don't think that he was moved by any reſentment of paſt injuries, to promote the fall of the Ruſſian party in Sweden, and co-operate in the Revolution. I am rather apt to perſuade myſelf, that he ſaw no other means

means of preventing the misfortunes which threatened his country from internal diviſions, or of putting in force the many ſalutary regulations, he was continually meditating for the general œconomy of the kingdom. His converſations with the King commonly ran upon no other topic. He had made a ſhort ſketch of the political and œconomical ſtate of the kingdom, with the moſt likely means of promoting public happineſs; and having diſcuſſed ſeparately every article with the King, and obtained his approbation, he uſed, every new year, to preſent the King with a ſummary account of what had already been put in execution, and what yet remained to do. During the firſt years of the King's reign, the greateſt

regard

regard was paid to his patriotic zeal; and one muſt own, that this part of the King's reign was the moſt fertile in uſeful inſtitutions for public œconomy: but other objects having ſince divided the King's attention, his Majeſty ſeemed to take leſs pleaſure in thoſe matters; and Count Scheffer ſaw himſelf obliged to leave them, for fear of being tireſome.

He had gained a great point in having placed Baron Lilljencrantz as Secretary of State in the Finance department, and would occaſionally forward ſome favourite ſcheme by his means; as the King for ſome time honoured the Baron with an almoſt unbounded confidence.

Where

Where Count Scheffer could not engage the influence of Adminiſtration, he ſet at work the patriotic ſpirit, he had himſelf ſo much endeavoured to ſpread among his countrymen. A Society propoſed and formed by Mr. Modeer, for encouraging public œconomy in ſeveral branches, took new life under the direction of Count Scheffer, who obtained the King's ſanction for the inſtitution under the name of *The Royal Patriotic Society*, laid the foundation of its capital by a preſent of about a thouſand pounds ſterling, and engaged all the members to an annual contribution. The example of the Count has been followed by many others; and the Society is now enabled to beſtow a great

number

number of prizes, not only on œconomical queſtions, which are propoſed every year, but alſo on practical huſbandry: for draining of marſhes, improvements in the culture of lands, artificial meadows, ſtone houſes and walls, plantations of trees, &c. and what has produced a particular good effect are the honorary rewards diſtributed among ſervants employed in rural œconomy, and who have ſtaid in their places above twelve years, and behaved to the ſatisfaction of their maſters.

Gold medals, of five guineas value, are alſo given on reſtoring drowned perſons to life by the methods uſed in England and France; and for which purpoſe, the inſtruments are depoſited in every watch-houſe.

houſe. In ſhort there is no object of common utility left unpromoted by this aſſociation, nor does any act of humanity eſcape their notice and encouragement.

The tranſactions of the Society, publiſhed under the care of the Chief Secretary, Mr. Modeer, contain ſeveral treatiſes adopted by the Society, and the beſt anſwers to the propoſed queſtions.

An œconomical journal, publiſhed every month, was began and kept up three years by Mr. Riſtel, then Secretary to the Society, afterwards the King's Librarian. It has ſince been continued by Mr. Modeer. It preſents ſucceſſive views of the ſtate and progreſs of the œconomical

ſcience, and obſervations on practical huſbandry, founded on experience, and applicable to the climate and poſition of Sweden.

All theſe inſtitutions are ſo many laſting monuments of Count Scheffer's active zeal for the public good. The Society has eternized its gratitude towards his memory in a medal, remarkable for it's ſimplicity and truth: it is Minerva preſenting the emblem of immortality, with the motto, *Quod Patriæ Studuit.*

This juſtly celebrated zeal for his country was always his predominant paſſion, and his care extended to branches which

one

one would think far remote from the attention of a Stateſman and Courtier.

The ſuperintendency of the hoſpitals and Lazarettos of the kingdom belong to the Chancellor of the Royal Order of Seraphim; Count Scheffer was no ſooner inveſted with that dignity, than one would have thought the poor and ſick the ſole objects of his ſolicitude. There was not an old bachelor, in eaſy circumſtances, from whom the Count did not, one way or other, obtain a will for charitable purpoſes; and the hoſpitals are now, in many Swediſh towns, the moſt ſpacious buildings. The eſtabliſhments for employing the induſtrious poor, in order to provide for

their ſubſiſtence, have alſo been forwarded by the ſame beneficent ſpirit.

By politeneſs and inclination very attentive to the fair ſex, he never heard of a woman under misfortunes but with a deſire of ſerving her; not to mention his good offices and interceſſions with perſons who could protect the ſuffering fair, he alſo paid numerous penſions to widows and orphans, and left by his will his whole fortune to an eſtabliſhment, ſerving as an aſylum for women of quality and good character, but who were deprived of ſufficient ſupport from their families. He had already in his life time bought the houſe, and ſettled on it a yearly revenue for the maintenance of twelve

twelve ladies, under the care of a widow of the moſt reſpectable character, a ſiſter of the late Count Creutz Prime Miniſter and Senator of the kingdom. He has alſo conſiderably extended the benefit of the Order of Wadſtena, in which now a great number of young ladies are received for a ſmall ſum paid for the Star of the Order, which they are allowed to wear together with the habit, which is a very genteel dreſs, and in the mean time leſs expenſive, becauſe it is always the ſame, and leaves no room for the extravagance of fancy or faſhion. The ſum raiſed by the money paid on admiſſion, is added to the funds of the Order, and ſerves to provide very handſome penſions to thoſe who, in an unmarried ſtate, loſe their

parents, or by ſome misfortune are reduced to want the ſupport of the inſtitution.

If ſuch generous endeavours deſerved a great regard from the fair ſex, he gained them no leſs by all thoſe little attentions which are ſure to render a man agreeable. He would keep up a converſation for hours together, on dreſs, needle-work, and other female occupations; would take the warmeſt intereſt in all that affected them; rallied with ſprightlineſs on the moſt ſerious ſubjects; had ſome delicate compliment ready on every occaſion; knew how to make a ſmall preſent in a manner that encreaſed its value; all this, accompanied with the moſt

moſt infinuating cheerfulneſs, a very handſome figure, and the moſt elegant neatneſs about his perſon, could not fail to pleaſe.

Though he was extremely partial to beauty, and could probably have had his choice among the fair, yet his marriage was rather a match of convenience than of love on either ſide. The famous General During, who accompanied Charles XII. on his ſpeedy journey from Turkey to Sweden, had two daughters, not very well provided with the charms of their ſex; one of them was a very ſenſible woman; the other was extremely ſickly, and weak both in body and mind; their father, advanced in age, wiſhed to ſee

them before his death under the care of ſome generous friend, who could ſupport them in their right to a conſiderable landed eſtate, and treat them with that friendly indulgence which might ſupply the loſs of an affectionate father.

The General, with all the frankneſs of an old warrior, told Count Scheffer he thought him the moſt honeſt man he knew, and wiſhed he would accept his fortune with the charge of his daughters. The Count, ſenſible of the confidence of ſo reſpectable a man, accepted the propoſal, and the ceremony was performed; but before night, the bridegroom was taken ill and retired to his own room. He ſoon recovered, but ever left the lady undiſturbed;

undiſturbed; the rather, as it ſeemed alſo to be her earneſt deſire.

In other reſpects he behaved in a manner to deſerve her moſt tender friendſhip. She paſſed her life very agreeably in his company, and at her death ſhe left him, by her will, in full poſſeſſion of the eſtate. It is true he had ſpent great ſums of his own in rebuilding the manſion houſe and embelliſhing a very barren ſituation. He had juſt finiſhed his plan of a garden in the Chineſe taſte, when his death left his eſtate at Toreſoe in the ſole poſſeſſion of his ſiſter in law, who had for ſeveral years been lame, and could not have been expected to outlive the reſt of the family.

Garden-

Gardening and agriculture made the principal amuſement of Count Scheffer's latter years. Such occupations are the common refuge of every ſenſible being, tired of the world, and cured of ambition by its many diſappointments. A country life was the firſt deſtination of man; and we all, through greater or leſſer circuits, come back again to nature.

The tranquillity of rural ſcenes leaves the ſoul leiſure to enjoy its own feelings, and opens the heart to humanity. The farmer, viſiting his Lord in town, is nothing but a farmer, a being of inferior kind, made for labour and paying of rents; but in the country he is a man, part of the ſame ſpecies with his noble maſter.

Count

Count Scheffer not only received his tenants with cordiality at his houſe, but alſo returned the viſit; and his viſits were ſuch as thoſe of ſuperiors ought to be, not a mere civility, but a true bleſſing to thoſe who received them. He enquired into their circumſtances with the kindeſt ſolicitude; and if their property was not ſufficient for ſtocking the farm, or ſomething elſe was wanting to their happineſs, they were ſure of being relieved as ſoon as they had made him the confidant of their ſituation. To avoid all appearance of partiality, he did not viſit one more than the other; he made a round among them all, and when he came to the laſt, he began a new turn.

Theſe were his morning walks, which he took almoſt every day, by way of exerciſe. Nobody ever lead a more regular life: he commonly roſe at five in the morning, made his fire himſelf, and finiſhed his letters and other buſineſs of importance, before any one in the houſe was ſtirring; at nine he took his chocolate, at ten he was dreſſed for the day, and ready to ſee company; at eleven he took his ordinary walk, and was commonly home at one, and made a light breakfaſt with thoſe who were come to dine with him on the day; he then retired for a ſhort time, and gave his orders according to what company he had; and at two o'clock the dinner was on the table.

Every

Every one knew his hours, and neither himſelf or his friends were perfectly at eaſe when they happened to come later than one o'clock; but after the firſt inſtant of embarraſſment was over, he was all cheerfulneſs and attention for the remainder of the day; retiring only between four and ſix o'clock to diſpatch buſineſs, when there was any, or elſe to read, or write down any thing that was remarkable enough to enter into his journal, which he had continued from a very early period of life. There were only ſome few ſelect friends who ever had the ſight of this work, and I know not what became of it after his death; if it ſhould be ever publiſhed, it will be a moſt intereſting and curious preſent to the literary world.

It

It is written in French; and though it is a firſt ſketch, there are very few corrections, and the character of the greateſt elegance.

He underſtood Latin, Italian, Engliſh and German, well enough to read authors; but French was the moſt familiar to him, and his ſtile in that language would be no diſgrace to any Member of the French Academy. Neither had he neglected his mother tongue: ſeveral of his public ſpeeches have been cited as models of Swediſh eloquence; and his *Principles of Oeconomical Government*, in which he has given a conciſe view of the plan he propoſed to be followed in Sweden, preſents a clearneſs of reaſoning and an eloquence

of

of ſtile, which gives a double ſatisfaction to the reader; and his ſyſtem would already have been put in execution, if private intereſt was not in general a more powerful motive than the public good.

Men of genius and learning looked upon him as their common protector, and many have been forwarded by his friendly exertions. It has been ſaid that he ſometimes intereſted himſelf for perſons who afterwards did no honour to his diſcernment: but a benefactor, prompted only by the pleaſure of doing good, is not to blame becauſe one or two out of an hundred may prove unworthy of his kindneſs. However, among thoſe who have had any conſiderable ſhare in his favour, there are

none

none totally void of merit, if we except one Sackenhjelm, who had coſt him a great deal of trouble and money to no purpoſe. But his endeavours to make any thing of this poor ſubject were rather the conſequence of duty than of choice, the man being ſon to the ſteward of the Count's father, by whom he had been warmly recommended to the friendſhip and protection of the family. No diſlike whatever could make Count Scheffer forget this; and when by repeated experiments he was at laſt convinced that the gentleman was literally without genius, he left him the enjoyment of a very handſome eſtate for life, under the inſpection of a perſon of confidence, who took care of the eſtate as well as of the gentleman.

As

As Count Scheffer was ſincere in his friendſhip, he had alſo great forbearance with his friends. Their faults would ſometimes bring on very warm expoſtulations, but never alter his ſentiments towards them. His great vivacity of temper totally diſappeared when in company with old people, and he never manifeſted the leaſt mark of his natural impatience at their ſlowneſs and infirmities. He would ſtay for hours together with his old friend Roennow, who was ſo deaf that he ſometimes wanted to have the words repeated ten times over, before he could comprehend them, and ſpoke himſelf ſo ſlowly, that one might eaſily forget the beginning of a ſentence, before he had

brought it to the end. This tedious companion never doubted but that his lively friend was extremely delighted with his converſation.

One who bore that reſpect to an advanced age, deſerved to enjoy it longer himſelf; but his friends were denied the pleaſure of paying him the ſame attention. A ſort of rheumatic weakneſs in his hands occaſioned his journey to Achen, where his complaint was rather encreaſed than cured. It changed into a diſorder in his legs, for which good phyſicians did not think proper to apply any remedy; but on his way home he met with a quack, who perſuaded him that nothing

was

was more eaſy than to cure him. By the preſcriptions of this Galenus, the diſorder, it is true, was removed from the legs, but it now lodged itſelf in the breaſt, and ſoon put an end to a life that had done ſo much honour to humanity.

He died with the ſame cheerfulneſs in which he had lived; and without any other anxiety than about the fate of his charitable inſtitutions; as he had been obliged to employ on his journey part of the money deſtined for their benefit: but his worthy brothers, the Senator Count Ulrick Scheffer, and the Field Marſhal Baron Peter Scheffer, ſet his mind at eaſe on this ſubject, by reſigning what right

they might have to his inheritance, and promiſing to do every thing in their power for the ſupport of his generous and uſeful intentions.

CHAP-

CHAPTER XV.

DURING the ſtruggles between the French and the Ruſſian parties in Sweden, the Scheffers conſtantly followed the political principles of Count Ferſen; and Count Ulric Scheffer was looked upon as appointed ſucceſſor to Count Ekeblad in the Miniſtry, long before the event took place. It has alſo of late been the ordinary ſtep from that of Swediſh Ambaſſador to the Court of France.

After the change in the form of government, the differences between the Court and the Nobility ſucceeding to the

former diviſions in the kingdom, Count Ferſen has been looked upon as the leader of the country party, whereas the Scheffers, having once openly declared their ſentiments in favour of the preponderance of the Royal Authority, remained conſtant to the ſame principles.

Their chief motive was that of uniting the common force for one purpoſe: the independance of the kingdom, both in political and œconomical reſpects. The former depending very much upon the latter, the improvement of agriculture, and the re-integration of the Crown-revenues, in a numerary ſpecies of a fixt value, were their principal objects; and a long experience having furniſhed ſufficient proofs

of

of the inſtability of even the beſt meaſures adopted by the Diet, they looked upon the Royal power as the only means of effectuating their ſalutary views, and bringing the public œconomy of the kingdom into ſyſtem and conſiſtence.

A new taxation of the lands, by which a certain ſum would have been paid for every acre, inſtead of the taxation by houſes or farms, now in uſe, was one of the favorite ſchemes of Count Charles Scheffer; but as the great proprietors would have been moſt the looſers by that reformation, and it would alſo have brought on another queſtion, why a third part of the kingdom, or the ancient poſſeſſions of the Nobility, ſhould be exempted from

taxation? the project was violently contradicted. Some perſon having maliciouſly obſerved, that it was very well in thoſe who had no children and conſequently no intereſt farther than their own life time, to forward ideas capable of reducing the Nobles to the condition of farmers to the Crown; the Count replied with ſome warmth: "It is true I have no family; but therefore I have the leſs private views; but you, who boaſt of having children, take care that the intereſt of your family does not make you forget the intereſt of your country."

It is alſo the caſe with both his brothers to have no offspring. The Baron has never been married; and Count Ulric

Scheffer,

Scheffer made, like his elder brother, rather a match of œconomy than of love. Not that the Counteſs wants amiable qualities, but ſhe was already paſt the age of pregnancy, before ſhe married Count Scheffer, who is her ſecond huſband; the former was Count Brahe, who loſt his life for a ſcheme, in ſome reſpects equal to that in which the latter has participated with more ſucceſs.

A marriage between the widow of Count Brahe and one of the party by whom he was proſecuted and comdemned, might have been looked upon as a very ſtrange union, if it was not known that Count Ulric Scheffer had very little ſhare in the affairs of that Diet, and has never acted

acted as a leader in the party, being by inclination more apt to ſtudy and ſedentary employments, than to produce himſelf in the active part of a public character.

One point upon which the Scheffers have perfectly agreed with the new party of Count Ferſen, is the maintenance of peace with the neighbouring powers. On one ſide, the fear of the expences and contributions occaſioned by a war, and on the other an ardent deſire of carrying on their œconomical plans without impediment or interruption, have co-operated to the ſame purpoſe: and Count Ulric Scheffer had ſeveral times openly declared, that he would not have any part in the adminiſtration of public affairs, if the king-

dom

dom was involved in a war, without the abſolute neceſſity of ſelf-defence. It is commonly believed that ſome apprehenſions of ſeeing the peace diſturbed occaſioned his retreat out of the Miniſtry and the Senate. He has ſince paſſed his time, in the ſame manner as his elder brother employed the latter part of his life, in ſtudy and rural occupations.

The Field Marſhal, Baron Scheffer, is ſtill in the ſervice, but as yet he has had no command in the preſent war. He is a bachelor, and lives alſo conſtantly in the country. Moved by the ſame charitable ſpirit as his elder brother, he has taken care of many gentlemen's ſons in narrow circumſtances, had them educated at his expence,

expence, and placed in the army. There are always ſome of them living at his houſe, where they are treated with all the regard due to their birth, and with that friendly attention which they could hardly expect from any but a parent: and he has already had the pleaſure to ſee ſeveral of them behave in a manner that does honour to their education.

I don't know what are the ſentiments of the Scheffers in reſpect to the Revolution of this preſent year, but ſeveral of their former friends have been conſpicuous in the oppoſition.

The General Frederic Horn was ſo zealous for the Revolution of 1772, that he

he was rewarded with the title of Count, the Blue Ribbon, and the command of the Horſe Guards. He then profeſſed ſuch a perſonal attachment to the King, that he would have changed his family-name, one of the moſt antient and illuſtrious of the country, for a new one of his own choice, and equivalent in ſignification to Guſtavus's friend; and when the King, who is very partial to ancient names, let him underſtand he would wiſh no alteration in that reſpect, the Count would at leaſt have the chiffre of Guſtavus III. added to his Coat of Arms; to which his Majeſty conſented.

All was extremely well for ſome time; but when the King had beſtowed all the

favours

favours in his power, and nothing more could be hoped for, the Count appeared leſs warm in his zeal, and at laſt ſet up for an avowed malecontent. It is poſſible there was ſome particular reaſon for this change of ſentiments; and that the command of the Horſe Guards, which the Count reſigned in favour of the Duke of Sudermania, cauſed him ſome regret.

But one would have expected from the pride of General Horn that ſome little private diſſatisfaction would not appear to influence his public conduct, ſo far as to ſpeak with the ſame vehemence againſt the intereſt of the Court, as he had formerly done in its defence againſt the Diet.

One

One may ſay, that the ſtate of the queſtion was altered; but one muſt alſo own, that Count Horn, with one of the moſt honeſt characters in the world, has in his compoſition ſomething of the ſpirit of the ancient Knights, who devoted themſelves to difficult enterprizes, ſuch as oppoſing power and combating giants. He had early diſtinguiſhed himſelf in that character by ſeveral ſingle combats, and by reſcuing a captive beauty from the power of a tyrannical parent, who would not allow her to marry according to the choice of her heart. The lady was the only daughter of Mr. Plomgren, brother to the father in law of General Pechlin; and as beſides perſonal accompliſhments ſhe had a very handſome fortune, the

adventure

adventure was worth attempting. The enterprize was not carried on ſo ſecretly but that her father was informed the very ſame night; and came in his turn, armed with all the ſeverity of an injured parent, and provided with ſufficient force to reclaim his priſoner; but the bridegroom told him he came half an hour too late; and by the interpoſition of ſome friends, Mr. Plomgren was reconciled to his ſon in law.

It would alſo have been very difficult to find out any reaſonable objections to the match, Count Horn, then Baron Horn, being by birth related to the firſt families in the kingdom; and his ſiſter had been really married to King Fredericus of Sweden.

The

The old Monarch had been captivated by her beauty and truly majeſtic figure; and as he could not obtain her on other terms, was obliged to paſs through the ceremony. I do not know if her Royal huſband, upon ſerious reflection, found the adventure unequal to his years, or if marriage, in him, proved a ſufficient antidote againſt love, but certain it is, that after the bridal night he never any more enjoyed her company.

It had been agreed upon that ſhe ſhould take the title of Counteſs of Caſſel, the hereditary eſtate of the King; but perhaps equally diſſatisfied with her ſpouſe, as he appeared indifferent to her, ſhe preferred her own name, and ſtiled herſelf only

Counteſs Horn; but after the death of the King, ſhe married the Count Barck, Senator of the kingdom, who had been her conſtant admirer from her firſt appearance in the world, and continued a lover even after marriage.

Count Horn had by his marriage an only ſon, who is a living proof that fondneſs in parents does not always ſpoil their children. The young Count is of a very worthy and amiable character; and though entitled by his birth to the firſt places at Court or in the army, he has by choice taken a way in which knowledge and experience are the only claims to preferment. He is a Major in the corps of Engineers, and has been admired for his

his ſpeedy progreſs in the ſciences be longing to his ſtation. He paſſes alſo for a great algebraiſt; and what is not very common in mathematicians, he has a taſte for poetry, and is an excellent judge in thoſe matters, as well as in muſic, in which he is alſo a very good performer.

His father, who never oppoſed any of his wiſhes but with the friendly expoſtulations of a brother, has permitted him to marry a lady of an agreeable figure and very good character, but without any fortune. It was a common report, that the old Count made more than one ſacrifice in giving his conſent to this match, as he himſelf, being then a widower, was a great admirer of the younger ſiſter;

but for the happineſs of his ſon, he got the better of his own paſſion, and has ſince married a widow lady of a very reſpectable character, who behaves as a true mother to the young couple, and is of an age that gives no apprehenſions of brothers and ſiſters to divide the inheritance.

General Horn has an elder brother, who was alſo made a Count on the ſame occaſion as the younger. With one of the fineſt eſtates in the country, he is, through a neglected œconomy, very often in ſtraitened circumſtances; and his office of Preſident to the Board of Commiſſioners for providing the army, as it obliges him to live in the capital, is the occaſion of his expending

expending ten times more than the amount of his ſalary. The great point of his ambition has been the Star of the Military Order, of which he has already the Ribbon. After having been a long time diſappointed in his hopes of obtaining that favour, he took it in his head that it was the fault of his friend, Count Charles Scheffer, who he ſuppoſed had not, according to his promiſe, put the King in mind of his merit; and therefore he reſolved to ſpeak to his Majeſty himſelf. He accordingly aſked for an audience; and having entered upon the ſubject with a queſtion—if his Majeſty had any reaſon to be diſſatisfied with him? the King frankly anſwered, yes; and though I ſuppoſe the Count had many good arguments to urge

in his favour, he could not, in his ſurpriſe, put them in a light ſtrong enough to make the King alter his prepoſſeſſion; and the requeſt was denied, at leaſt for that time.

There is one ſon of his, Count Claes Horn, very much in the King's favour. Though very young, he is yet a Captain-Lieutenant in the corps of Gentlemen Penſioners. He is extremely handſome, and in conſequence a great favourite with the fair ſex. I have ſeen a lady, of the firſt merit and conſideration at Court, and a remarkably good player at whiſt, ſo ſmitten at his appearance that ſhe has loſt her recollection of the game, dropped her cards, and been obliged to leave the room to hide her emotion; yet, though

ſhe

ſhe was a very charming young lady, I don't think he took the leaſt advantage of his conqueſt. It is too common a fault with young gentlemen of the preſent age to abandon themſelves ſo much to the purſuance of low and eaſy amours, that they have very little attention left for ladies of a higher claſs.

He has ſince married a good fortune, though not ſufficient to compenſate for the want of perſonal accompliſhments.

His elder brother, Count Guſtavus Horn, diſtinguiſhed himſelf very much in the Pruſſian ſervice in the laſt war againſt the Emperor. He was lately married to Miſs Odencrantz, a lady of a very hand-

ſome figure, and daughter to the Chamberlain Odencrantz, proprietor of Medewy, an eſtate of conſiderable value, and a celebrated watering place in Sweden.

Among the friends and adherents of the late Count Charles Scheffer, Baron Lilljencrantz, formerly Mr. Weſterman, deſerves a diſtinguiſhed place. All that has been executed of the œconomical plan is owing to his judicious and zealous intervention.

He had early applied himſelf to the ſtudy of œconomy, and made the tour of Europe, with a view to collect obſervations in that reſpect which might prove uſeful to his country.

After

After his return home, he was for a long while neglected, and could get no employment worthy of his genius and ſtock of knowledge. His ideas were too extenſive for the comprehenſion of the greater number, and required more attention than the principal leaders of the Diets had leiſure to beſtow on lucubrations upon the improvement of public œconomy. They had buſineſs enough to maintain themſelves in power, and to ſupport the particular intereſt of their reſpective factions.

Count Scheffer was perhaps the only perſon of any great conſideration, who knew the true value of this meditating genius, and had weighed his principles well enough to be convinced of their juſtneſs,

juſtneſs, and the advantage that was to be expected from their application to the general œconomy of the kingdom.

But it would have been of no uſe to propoſe or effectuate any reformation of that kind, ſo long as the executive power, wavering between the parties that divided the kingdom, was never ſure to bring even the moſt plauſible meaſures to a required degree of maturity and ſtability. But that power, aſſembled and ſettled in the hands of a judicious monarch, gave a better proſpect for thoſe patriotic intentions. The ſix firſt years of the preſent reign have brought forth more enterprizes for public benefit, than the ſame ſpace of time ever produced in any country;

country before; and moſt of them have been approved by the teſt of experience.

If the fortune of Baron Lilljencrantz had been ſlow, it now went on with the greater rapidity. Within leſs than twelve years, from the time when his merit came to be known to King Guſtavus III. he was a Senator of the Kingdom, and had amaſſed conſiderable riches, which he can enjoy without the leaſt reproach.

He has been ranked among the Nobility of the kingdom, as well in reſpect to his ſervices as to his origin from the family of Vaſa, by his deſcent from a daughter of Chriſter Johnſon Vaſa, paternal uncle to King Guſtavus I.

CHAP-

CHAPTER XVI.

COUNT Hoepken, lately deceaſed, was, in the political world, one of thoſe ſhining meteors, which dazzle the eye for a ſhort time, and diſappear as ſuddenly as their appearance was unexpected.

In one day almoſt, he made his way from a ſubordinate place in the Chancery, up to the Senatorial Purple. His Adminiſtration as a Prime Miniſter was of a very ſhort period; but remarkable for the beginning of the Pruſſian war, the origin of laſting evils to his country.

Since

Since his forced retreat in 1761, he has made no figure in politics; and in the latter years of his life was only remarkable for being the oldeſt Member of the Senate.

The Count's father was known for the originality of his repartees. He was Secretary of State when the Ruſſian Ambaſſador, Count Beſtucheff, before the war of 1741, requeſted a categorical anſwer whether Sweden choſe war or peace. The queſtion being undecided in the Senate, and yet ſome anſwer being neceſſary, Mr. Hoepken made out a project, which was approved of, and preſented to the Ambaſſador; who having read it through with the greateſt attention, and being at a loſs

a loſs to find out what was the meaning of the Senate, he had recourſe to the Secretary for an ecclairciſement; but Mr. Hoepken anſwered, with the greateſt politeneſs, that he was ſorry he had no orders for giving a further explanation than was to be found in the paper. "But I have been ſtudying your paper theſe two hours," replied the Ambaſſador, "and yet I cannot get into the ſecret of the Senate's intention." "And can your Excellency pretend," returned the Secretary, "to extricate in two hours time what I have been ſo many days in folding up?"

It happened once that the Senate was aſſembled before he came, and Count Gyllenborg told him that they had been waiting

waiting for him. " I have been ſo many times waiting for their Excellencies," anſwered the Secretary, " that I am very glad they have once done me the honour to return the civility.

He was a man of great learning and literary merit; the ſon alſo was more qualified to ſhine in the line of literature than of politics.

The inſtitution of the Royal Society of Stockholm, commonly known under the name of the Swediſh Academy of Sciences, was the work of Count Hoepken's early years. He was himſelf the firſt Secretary, and had the pleaſure to be a witneſs of the progreſs and fame of the eſtabliſhment during

during half a century. He has left it ſecured upon ſo laſting a foundation, that it will probably perpetuate the glory of its founder to the lateſt poſterity.

The improvement of the Swediſh language was one of the objects of the Society; and how far he was himſelf able to ſet the example in that way, may be judged by his ſpeech in memory of his friend and promoter the late Count Teſſin, which is commonly looked upon as a maſterpiece of eloquence. He had early formed his ſtile upon that of Tacitus; and the few productions we have of Count Hoepken's pen make us regret he has left no more.

Such

Such was his literary reputation, that in all the later eſtabliſhments for promoting knowledge or improving the language of the country, he was always the firſt Member appointed.

He has left a ſon, of whoſe education he had taken the greateſt care: but as he is yet very young, it is difficult to form any judgment how far he will keep up the reputation of his name. He is known as yet only for one point of reſemblance to his grandfather, who was ſometimes ſo abſorbed in his ſpeculations that in dreſſing himſelf he would forget his ſhoes or ſmall clothes, and would often come to Court, with one hat on his head and another under his arm; he was,

however, a man of genius, and that may perhaps be the caſe with the young Count.

Of his uncle's, Baron Hoepken's family, there is likewiſe but one ſon living; who is a Captain of Dragoons, and was rewarded with the Military Order for his behaviour at the battle of Hoghland, on board the ſhip of the Duke of Sudermania, in whoſe Court he lives. His ſiſters have all been remarkable beauties; but the youngeſt is already dead, and the others are married in the country.

CHAP-

CHAPTER XVII.

THE Duke of Heſſenſtein is the only perſon of that dignity in Sweden, except the Royal Family; the title of Count being the higheſt degree among the Swediſh Nobility. The prerogatives which in England and France belong to the rank of a Duke, are in Sweden reſerved ſolely to the Senators of the kingdom, and ſome few perſons who in the preſent reign have been honoured with that diſtinction; ſuch as Count Brahe, the General Count Charles Emil Lewenhaupt, and Count Adolphus Lewenhaupt, Grand Maſter of the Horſe.

The Duke of Heſſenſtein had alſo been preſented with a diploma of the ſame rights, without any other title than that of Count, which he already bore; but having been made a Duke of the Roman Empire in Germany, he was acknowledged for a Duke in Sweden; and this was thought to be a prelude to the introduction of that title among the Swediſh Nobility. However, as Count Brahe and the others who could be entitled to ſuch a diſtinction, did not ſeem very fond of it, the project was put off for that time; and as matters now ſtand, it is very probable it will, for a long time, not be thought of.

As to the Duke of Heſſenſtein, the title

title was of no great conſequence, as he is a bachelor, and will probably remain ſo. It muſt alſo be the leſs a ſubject of jealouſy among the Swediſh Nobles, as his birth might entitle him to ſome particular diſtinction, in a country where his father had been a ſovereign.

He is an acknowledged ſon of Fredericus King of Sweden. His mother, Lady Hedwig Taube, was perhaps the moſt beautiful perſon in the kingdom; and the King, having taken her clandeſtinely from her parents, would perhaps have married her, if the Queen, the ſiſter and ſucceſſor of Charles XII. and to whom King Fredericus was indebted for the throne, had not then been living.

To make up the matter with the young lady's family, the King honoured her with a title of the firſt conſideration in the country, having her declared Counteſs of the Empire, and ſettled upon her ſeveral eſtates in Germany, to make out a County for her eldeſt ſon.

The King being known as a dangerous admirer of the fair ſex, was not much truſted by parents who had handſome daughters; but as he had been connected by friendſhip with the old Count Taube, Admiral of the kingdom, when the King, then Prince Hereditary of Heſſia, was Generaliſſimo of the Swediſh troops, he viſited the family at all hours with the familiarity of an old friend, and often got himſelf

himſelf admitted at the toilette of the daughters by counterfeiting the voice of their mother. He was ſoon captivated with the growing charms of Lady Hedwig; having inſinuated himſelf into her eſteem by ſuch ſmall preſents as are moſt agreeable to children, and by always taking her part againſt her ſiſters, he at laſt took advantage of an opportunity to carry her off by ſtratagem, as the only method of obtaining her; knowing very well, that her parents would never have conſented to any propoſition of ſuch a nature.

The young lady, who had been perſuaded that ſhe was to be privately married to the King, and that her parents were in the ſecret, was very much ſurpriſed at not ſeeing them for ſeveral days.

She inſiſted on a permiſſion to make them a viſit; and the King, who foreſaw the conſequence of an explanation, was very ſolicitous to have obtained their forgiveneſs, and to have ſettled all the articles with them before hand. He would not permit them to ſee their daughter, before they had given him the moſt ſolemn promiſe, not to come with her to any ecclairciſſement that could cauſe her the leaſt uneaſineſs.

As ſhe joined all the qualities of an excellent wife to thoſe of an agreeable miſtreſs, the King was very happy in her poſſeſſion, which did not laſt long enough to bring on ſatiety; ſhe died after being brought to bed of her third child.

Of

Of the two ſons and one daughter ſhe left, the Duke is the only one now living; his ſiſter died a child, and his brother was cut off in the bloom of youth.

The King, not being bleſt with any progeny in his marriage, was the more fond of theſe children, and ſolicitous of providing for their ſupport and conſideration in the world. He bought a regiment for each of the ſons; the Duke has ſtill the Oſtrogothia Infantry, though the regiment has of late very ſeldom ſeen it's Colonel.

In the Pruſſian war the Duke laid down early proofs of his courage and ſkill as a commander. I have heard him

him cited by experienced officers as a General whom they ſhould like to be commanded by, and who they were ſure would never expoſe the glory of the Swediſh arms.

If children inherit the qualities of their parents with the reſemblance of their features, the Duke cannot want that military genius, of which King Fredericus had in his youth given the moſt unequivocal proofs. Thoſe who have yet preſerved any remembrance of the late King, think they ſee his very picture in his ſon.

But as the King, in his latter years, was excluded from all occaſions of exerting his military talents, ſo the Duke has paſſed

paſſed the beſt part of his age in the leiſure of a long peace enjoyed by his country.

Now, fixed by his employment in a part very remote from the ſtage of the preſent war, and even hindered by his rank of Field Marſhal from accepting any ſubordinate command in the army, it is not likely that he will have the pleaſure to ſerve his country under the judicious eyes of his Sovereign, in this violent criſis of the martial reputation of modern Sweden.

The Duke had lately finiſhed his tour of Europe, when the preſent King mounted the throne of Sweden. The charms

and

and varied pleaſures of a young Court fixed the Duke at Stockholm; where he became a witneſs to the Revolution of 1772.

Though in his political creed he ever conformed himſelf to the party prevailing in the beginning of that Diet, as having been that of his father; yet he never took any active part in their operations.

The greateſt number of his friends and the companies he frequented, were in the oppoſite party. There was a great perſonal eſteem and attachment between him and Count Charles Scheffer, and they had very few ſecrets from each other. With all that, the confidence in his

his character was ſo ſtrong from the other ſide, that he was looked upon as the moſt proper perſon to intruſt with the care of public welfare, untill matters could be ſettled between the King and the Diet, in caſe the meaſures taken on both ſides ſhould have turned out to the advantage of the latter.

I very much doubt, whether the Duke had any knowledge of the honour deſtined him; but ſuch was the common voice among the party at the time. One would be apt to conclude the intentions were not very bad, when for their execution the choice was fixed upon a perſon of his unſuſpected principles.

The

The King, on his ſide, has alſo given the Duke the ſtrongeſt proofs of eſteem and friendſhip, in the honours and marks of truſt conferred on him after the Revolution.

The public eſtimation is ſtill ſuch, that no honour and no alliance have been thought too high for the Duke of Heſſenſtein, in the ſeveral reports that have been circulating on the ſubject of his marriage.

It is however probable that he will remain ſingle, and that his rich inheritance will return to the family of his mother in Sweden.

There is one of her nieces who deſerves

ſerves his particular attention, both in reſpect to her own moſt amiable qualities, and to the unbounded attachment of her father to the late King Fredericus.

This worthy relation of the Duke is a daughter of the late Preſident Baron Broman, and married to Mr. Andrew Plomgren, a brother of the Baroneſs Pechlin.

Baron Broman had given ſufficient proofs of his readineſs to ſerve his Sovereign without exception, and had alſo for a long time the firſt place in the King's favour.

One of his conſiderable advantages was the

the adminiſtration of the King's revenues from Heſſia, amounting to a yearly ſum of 30,000 guineas; and valued ſo low in Swediſh money, that one ſixth remained to the benefit of the Treaſurer.

But he lived in ſuch a princely ſtile, that at his death there was nothing left for his family. His mother in law, the Counteſs Taube, uſed to ſay, that God had beſtowed on her ſon every advantage in this life, except his bleſſing.

The houſe of Baron Broman, with a magnificent ſaloon decorated to lodge the picture in full length of King Fredericus, is now in the poſſeſſion of Baron Pechlin.

The

The only perſon now remaining of the family is the Baroneſs v. Plomgren, who has alſo an only daughter, much reſembling the lovely mother.

Of relations in the fourth and fifth degree the Duke has a great number in the firſt families of the country.

CHAPTER XVIII.

AS in Sweden the Court is open to all ſtrangers of conſideration, it furniſhes the beſt occaſion for making acquaintances. Beſides the perſons belonging to the attendance of the Royal Family, the Drawing Room is always very numerous, as moſt part of the Nobility and higher Gentry reſide in the capital during the winter; and it is a common rule with the ladies to appear at Court at leaſt once every fortnight.

It is a pity that the moſt admired accompliſhment in the fair ſex ſhould be of

of ſo ſhort a duration. Beauty paſſes almoſt with the ſame rapidity as the flowers, and the returning ſeaſon may produce as fine ones, but not the ſame. A liſt of beautiful and faſhionable ladies is therefore always liable to exceptions. I only anſwer for the preſent year 1789.

I make haſte to mention the Counteſs Ribbing, becauſe her period is the neareſt to an end. But it has alſo been of longer duration than what is the common lot of faſhionable beauties, her reign having laſted almoſt theſe five and twenty years.

She was early married to the late Count Ribbing, Senator of the Kingdom, and

ſo agreeable a man, that a well known report, for ſome time, aſcribed to him the moſt valuable conqueſt among the fair in Sweden; and though this was not founded in truth, it is always a proof of the common opinion in his favour.

But his young ſpouſe was too charming an object to be left entirely to the adoration of a huſband. A pretty face, a moſt elegant ſhape, an air of coquetry, and engaging manners, attracted a great number of admirers.

It was a common report that her brother in law, Baron Ribbing, had paid her his addreſſes from her firſt appearance in the world, with a decided intention to marry

marry her, and had thought himſelf encouraged in his hopes; but during his embaſſy to the Court of Ruſſia, ſhe gave the preference to his brother, who knew nothing of the rivalſhip. Baron Ribbing did not long ſurvive this event; and many good-natured people pitied him, as a ſuppoſed victim of a faithful and unhappy attachment.

A French Ambaſſador in Sweden, who has ſince acted a great part in the Miniſtry of his own country, made for ſome time very frequent viſits, which did not eſcape the malicious obſervations of the public. Count Ribbing was the more ſhocked at theſe rumours, as his well known contrariety to the French in-

tereſt left no room for a ſuppoſition of his having any ſhare in the attention paid to his houſe. He therefore made no ſecret of his earneſt deſires of getting rid of thoſe civilities. His valet de chambre, entering into the reſentment of his maſter, took it into his head to put a ſtop to the Ambaſſador's viſits; and watching him at a very late hour, took him in the dark for a houſe breaker, and with the aſſiſtance of a footman received him in ſuch a manner, that he did not think proper to expoſe himſelf any more to an adventure of the ſame kind.

Though frequent viſits to a fair lady are very apt to be miſrepreſented, it is poſſible that thoſe of the Ambaſſador had none

none but a politic object: the Counteſs very early eſpouſed the French intereſt, and all the Ambaſſadors from that Court have been her daily viſitors. It cannot be ſuppoſed that they all had any ſhare in her particular favours.

The public voice has been very laviſh in beſtowing favorites on this lady. The firſt perſonages in the kingdom have moſt of them, one time or other, been named on her account. Baron Maclean, an officer of diſtinction in the Foot Guards, was publicly reprimanded by Colonel Koenig, for employing too much of his time at the toilette of Counteſs Ribbing. It is true that the Baron replied in ſuch a manner, that nobody has ſince thought fit

to make him the ſame reproach, though his viſits have continued full as frequent as before.

As the Counteſs has, for a long time, been the abſolute ſovereign of faſhion in dreſs and way of living, and always kept up a ſtrict decency of appearance, her houſe is the general rendezvous of the polite world; and young ladies, even of the ſevereſt virtue, are deſirous of her acquaintance and protection.

But all of her female friends have not obſerved the ſame prudence in their conduct. The Baroneſs Durietz, though perhaps in fact equally innocent, left early her reputation a prey to the cenſures of the world.

world. In the firſt brightneſs of her beauty ſhe had the glory of fixing an illuſtrious lover, whom many of her ſex have in vain employed all their charms to captivate. As ſhe was then living confined in the country, he made a long journey to pay her a ſecret viſit: he had found means to inform her of the hour he was to come; but either ſhe doubted his exactneſs, or was not enough miſtreſs of her own meaſures, as he found her, at his arrival, engaged in company with Baron Charles Sparre, and had ſtrong ſuſpicions ſhe did not wiſh to be diſturbed. He therefore withdrew as faſt as he came, and never took notice of her any more.

I don't

I don't know how ſhe excuſed herſelf to the Counteſs Ribbing, whom ſhe made the confidant of her misfortune; but the Counteſs took pity on her ſo far as to intereſt herſelf in her favour: ſhe made a very ſplendid entertainment in compliment to the offended lover; and when he expreſſed his ſatisfaction at the charming attention paid him by the Counteſs, ſhe took the opportunity of pleading the cauſe of her unhappy friend, and with a tender and ſupplicating look aſked him "to forgive the poor Charlotte." But he, with the greateſt politeneſs, anſwered, that "as he had no right to take any offence, ſo there was no occaſion for his forgiveneſs." He ever avoided any further explanation. However, a long time after, when

when it could no more be of conſequence, he has behaved to her in a manner to perſuade her he has forgot the affront.

Another elegant lady is the Counteſs Degeer of Finſpong. The charms of her perſon, as well as her agreeable manners, have attracted a great number of admirers, of whom ſeveral have been ſuppoſed not to ſigh in vain: and in this age of malice, ſuch a ſuppoſition is almoſt looked upon as a certainty. She appears regularly every winter at Court, and having made ſeveral new acquaintances, the moſt agreeable among them are invited in the ſummer to her magnificent country ſeat; which having all the beauteous appearance of

Armida's

Armida's renowned iſland, is ſuppoſed to be inhabited by the ſame enchantments.

The Counteſs Degeer of Loeſſta, the lady of Baron Charles Degeer, has very fine eyes, and moſt remarkably fine hands. The public have remarked the aſſiduities of Baron Cederhielm Captain in the Light Dragoons, Baron Stierneld and others, but without any reflection injurious to her reputation.

The Counteſs Degeer of Froetuna, Lady of the Senator Baron Emanuel Degeer, and a ſiſter to the Graces before mentioned, is a very regular beauty, and of the moſt free and eaſy manners.

As

As her countenance bears the moſt charming expreſſions of an innocent heart, ſhe has ever been reſpected by the public; and ſhe is cited as an example both of ſocial agreement and domeſtic virtues.

There is now one more Counteſs Degeer, daughter of the Senator Count Bielke, and lately married to Baron Lewis Degeer. She is a beautiful young lady, and has ſiſters equally remarkable for a handſome figure. Their mother, a daughter to the late Senator Baron Duben, has been always equally as reſpected for her conduct as admired for her perſonal qualities. Her ſiſter, the Counteſs Poſſe, one of the Queen's Ladies of Honour, has alſo a moſt charming

ing daughter, who is in the Court of the Ducheſs.

The young Baroneſs v Eſſen, daughter of Baron Charles Degeer, is entitled to a diſtinguiſhed place among a family of beauties; ſhe was alſo the object of a very warm conteſt between two of the handſomeſt young men among the Swediſh Nobility, her preſent huſband and the Count Ribbing, a ſon to the late Senator. The King thought fit to ſeparate them, for fear of the conſequence, and the Count was ſent on duty in a remote place. But he at laſt gave up his pretenſions, declaring that he never would marry a lady who could heſitate in her choice.

The

The Counteſs Dohna is a ſiſter to the Barons Degeer, and is a young widow by the death of the late General Count Dohna. Her daughter in law, the Counteſs Ridderſtolpe, is entitled to a diſtinguiſhed place among the beauties of the capital. For ſeveral years after her marriage, there was not the leaſt ſuſpicion on her virtue, and the well known diſtich, that has ſince amuſed the malignity of the public, is perhaps nothing more than a frolic of ſome ſatyrical genius: for with all the common prepoſſeſſion of the ladies in favour of his Excellency Baron Charles Sparre, it would be very ſtrange if a beauty, who has reſiſted the perſecutions of young admirers, ſhould give up her reputation to a lover turned of ſixty. If this ſtory be

deemed

deemed fictitious, another, that her huſband was conſoled by the Baroneſs Sinclair, falls by the ſame argument.

It has not been ſuſpected where the Baron found conſolation, if not in meditation and ſcience. He is an officer of vaſt knowledge and experience, acquired moſtly in the French ſervice. In the few years which have elapſed ſince his return to Sweden, he has been advanced to the rank of a General and Commander in Chief of the artillery. He is the author of the new inſtructions for the officers in the Swediſh army, which is looked upon as a treaſure of military ſcience; but is ſo deep and compounded, that it is doubted whether

whether it has ever been perfectly underſtood by any one, if not perhaps by himſelf.

While I am upon the ſubject of learned officers, I cannot omit mentioning the Chief Admiral of the Swediſh navy, Count Ehrenſvaerd, a ſon to the juſtly celebrated General Ehrenſvaerd, who vindicated the honour of the Swediſh arms in the Pruſſian war, has ſecured the frontiers of the kingdom by the admired fortifications of Sweaborg and Landſcrona, covered the ſhores by a fleet of gallies, and immortalized his name in ſo many ſervices done his country.

His ſon manifeſting in his youth a great diſpoſition for drawing, his father thought

him fit for the ſtudy of architecture, and had him educated in that ſcience. He has preſented the learned world with a Theory of beauty, which almoſt at every line requires the explanations of the author. It is preſumed they will be publiſhed in another volume. The works of his pencil want no explication. He excels equally in humorous caracatures and in the moſt elegant drawings.

The Admiral's lady, a daughter of the General Count Sparre, was highly valued at Court, when Maid of Honour to the Princeſs, and ſhe is equally eſteemed for her conduct in the married ſtate. She is tall and fair, and bears a ſtrong reſemblance to her brother, who is a Captain in the Light

light dragoons of the King's Guards, and is of a very reſpectable character.

CHAPTER XIX.

THE Counteſs Lantinghuſen, daughter of the Senator Count Stockenſtroem, is a lady of the moſt beautiful ſhape, but ſomewhat dark complexion. She was a Maid of Honour to the Queen when Princeſs Royal; and though her Majeſty had afterwards married ladies for her attendants, the Counteſs ſtaid at Court as unmarried, till the return of Baron Lantinghuſen from the tour of Europe; having been engaged to him before he quitted Sweden.

Her huſband is a Nobleman of a very worthy

worthy character, but of rather too ſerious a turn of mind, for which he was in his younger years very much rallied by his charming couſins, the daughters of Count Charles Ferſen, who occupied a part of his ſpacious houſe. But he always preferred ſolid occupations, to the agreeable trifles which commonly make the ſubjects of converſation with young ladies. Drawing and engraving were the amuſements of his leiſure hours, and by continual application he has acquired a great facility in thoſe arts. He was not much above twelve years old, when he engraved the two great landſcape pieces, dedicated to his uncle Count Charles Ferſen.

There has lately appeared a tranſlation

of his, *Young's Night Thoughts*, in which the Swediſh language approaches very near to the energy of the original.

He is a Colonel in the Swediſh army; but having left the ſervice thro' ſome diſcontent before the war, it is not likely he will enter again into a career, where there are ſo many other officers who ſtand in need of making their fortunes, while he enjoys an independant one by inheritance.

His father was the late Field Marſhal Baron Lantinghuſen, who married the only ſiſter of the Counts Ferſen. She was promiſed to the General Baron Loeven, but her mother having had ſome cauſe of diſpleaſure

diſpleaſure againſt him, and knowing the young lady's diſpoſition in favour of the other, who was a diſtant relation of the family, ſhe one day ſent a meſſage to the ſteward of her neareſt country houſe, that he ſhould directly come to town, together with the vicar of the pariſh. As ſoon as they came, they were locked up in a room till the arrival of Baron Lantinghuſen, whom ſhe had invited to ſup with her. She told nothing of her deſign, neither to him nor her daughter, before ſhe introduced them to the parſon; whom, after a few queſtions to the parties concerned, ſhe deſired to read the nuptial benediction; no other witneſs being preſent than herſelf, the ſteward, and the young lady's nurſe. After the cere-

mony thus performed, and handſome preſents being given to the clergyman and witneſſes, they were all put into her own coach and carried out of town, before they had an opportunity to ſpeak to any body. The ſecreſy being of the utmoſt conſequence, as there had been a formal promiſe of marriage between the bride and Baron Loeven, who would have reclaimed her as his lawful wife, if he had got the leaſt notice of it that day. But the day after it was too late. The diſappointed lover went in a great fury and violently exclaimed againſt theſe proceedings; but ſome ſerious repreſentations made him by his happy rival, brought him at laſt to a reaſonable compoſition.

Of

Of this marriage there was only two children, the preſent Baron Lantinghuſen, and a moſt amiable daughter, who was married to Baron Klinkowſtroem, and died in childbed by a ſudden joy, on ſeeing her huſband unexpectedly return from a journey. Baron Klinkowſtroem has ſince married the eldeſt daughter of Count Axel Ferſen, and is now Preſident in the Supreme Court of Juſtice at Wiſmar.

Baron Lantinghuſen had for the conſtant companion of his youth Baron Stael v. Holſtein, now Swediſh Ambaſſador at the Court of France. The ſentiments which united theſe two young Noblemen are a ſufficient proof, that conformity of characters is no neceſſary ingredient in friendſhip.

friendſhip. One is ſerious and ſolid, the other chearful and agreeable. Not that Baron Stael wants ſolidity; he has given ſeveral inſtances of his great abilities in ſerious buſineſs, eſpecially during the viſit of his maſter at the French Court; but his amiable qualities are by far more apparent than the ſolid ones, and it is perhaps to this happy diſguiſe is owing his preferment. It is a common opinion that he has obtained his place by the intereſt of the Court of France; and it is obvious that it muſt have been from ſome other motive than his ſkill in politics.

The chain of circumſtances which have made him an Ambaſſador at ſo early a period of his life, is this. During his

ſtay

ſtay at Paris in company with Baron Lantinghuſen, his chearfulneſs, ſenſibility, and, perhaps, his figure, acquired him ſo many agreeable acquaintances in that capital, that he could not reſolve to leave it ſo ſoon as his friend; who having his bride waiting for him in Sweden, would not ſpend any longer time on his tour than he had once fixed in his mind. The latter Nobleman therefore returned, and Baron Stael ſtaid at Paris, where he was more and more tied by the friendſhip ſhewn him from people of the firſt note; among whom he had inſpired ſo ſtrong an intereſt in his favour, that they could not part with him no more than he with them. It is to their influence he is indebted for his place, and perhaps for his

marriage

marriage with the only daughter of Mr. Necker, as the ſureſt means of fixing him among them.

Many have been envied with leſs apparent reaſon; but he is ſo generally eſteemed and beloved, even in his own country, that every body ſeemed to enjoy the ſmiles of fortune on her worthy favourite.

I have only ſeen the picture of the young Baroneſs, and to judge after that, her perſon muſt be very agreeable. I have been told, by thoſe who know her, that her accompliſhments are equal to her ſuppoſed fortune; and that is certainly a great deal.

I do

I do not know if this lady intends to viſit the Court of Sweden, but I am very certain that ſhe would be ſatisfied with the reception ſhe would meet with. To ſay nothing of what is due in particular to the celebrity of her father, the rank of her huſband and her own qualifications, there are few Courts where more attention is paid in general to foreign ladies, than at preſent in Sweden.

There was, a few years ago, a young French lady married to a SwediſhNobleman; and though juſt peeping out of the convent ſhe found herſelf tranſplanted into a brilliant Court, ſhe gave herſelf the greateſt importance, decided on matters of taſte and literature, and was looked upon

as

as an oracle. Her place among the Queen's ladies ſhe owed perhaps to the conſideration of her family and that of her huſband; but what may certainly be regarded as particular to herſelf, was the great attention ſhewn to her from the King; which though perhaps only the effect of a politeneſs natural in him, eſpecially to ſtrangers, cauſed a great deal of chat within the Court, inſomuch that a friend of her huſband adviſed him to beware of the deſtiny of Peleus, who had a ſon greater than himſelf.

Another French lady, of leſs diſtinction in regard to her birth, but very much eſteemed for her qualities and behaviour, is married to Baron Stierncrona, one of the

the Queen's Chamberlains. This lady is not only invited to Court as regularly as the firſt Counteſs in the kingdom, but has alſo her apartments at Drottningholm, the Verſailles of Sweden, where the Royal Family paſſes five or ſix months of the year. I have ſeen the King, with all the condeſcenſion of the moſt polite beau, ſtoop to take up her fan, which ſhe happened to drop; and upon her motion to prevent him, he made her the moſt friendly reproaches for not conſidering the ſtate ſhe was in, and not knowing the duties of a married lady.

Among thoſe who may be regarded as the ornaments of the female world in

Sweden

Sweden, very few may conteſt the firſt place with the Counteſs Wachtmeiſter, the lady of the Senator and Chief Juſtice of the Kingdom. With a beautiful face, and a tall, elegant figure, her character and behaviour have never given occaſion to the leaſt cenſure. Her family name is Sparre, and ſhe is a niece to the Counteſs Ferſen, Grand-Governeſs of the Queen's Court.

The Counteſs Falkenberg, a ſiſter to the Baron Wachtmeiſter already mentioned, has ever been looked upon in the ſame light as the Counteſs Wachtmeiſter is now regarded. The young ladies Falkenberg, her daughters, are juſt entered

tering into the world, and do honour to their birth and education.

Among other very young ladies, and as yet reſpected by the public voice, the moſt remarkable are:

The Counteſs Sparre, daughter to his Excellency Count Bunge, and married to H. E. Baron Frederic Sparre; ſhe is a very agreeable and well educated young lady, as well as the Baroneſs Rolamb, formerly Miſs Adlerfelt, a niece to the lady whom Baron Sparre firſt married. His Excellency has alſo two daughters, of whom one is now Baroneſs Wrangel. They are both of them diſtinguiſhed by all the accompliſhments of the moſt liberal education.

The Counteſs Froelich, daughter to Baron Bunge, has a regular Grecian face, and a great deal of innocence and goodneſs in her looks; ſhe has alſo a very good ſhape for a middle ſtature.

The Counteſs Cronhielm, daughter to the famous Baron Pechlin, is of a tall and eaſy ſtature, has remarkably fine black eyes, and her face of a handſome oval. What does honour to her ſenſe and education, is that ſhe has, from her earlieſt youth, been very much taken notice of both by the King and Queen, who neither of them often ſpeak to any unmarried lady.

Her ſiſter in law, Lady Guſtava Cronhielm,

hielm, is a remarkable fair beauty, and reſembles much her mother, the Counteſs Cronhielm, formerly Lady of the Bed Chamber.

The young Counteſs Horn and her ſiſter Miſs Linnerhielm, are of different complexions, the Counteſs is fair, and the other a brunette; but they were about the age of fifteen ſo equally charming that it was impoſſible to ſay which had the advantage; one would always give the preference to her one had ſeen the laſt.

The Counteſs Roſen, and her ſiſter the Baroneſs Ruth, both of a ſhort ſtature, but very agreeable figure, are daughters to

 Mr. Wah-

Mr. Wahrendorff, proprietor of the canon foundery at Akerſbruk, and ſeveral other iron works.

The Baroneſs Rudbeck, daughter of Baron Axelſon, has a very regular and handſome face, but is alſo of a very ſhort ſtature.

The two daughters of the late Secretary of State Wadenſtierna, are both of them very good figures, but rather of diminutive proportion.

That fault is not to be found with the two nieces of the Senator Count Hermanſſon. They are both of them remarkably tall as well as handſome. The eldeſt

eldeſt is going to be married to Captain Terſmeden.

The youngeſt daughter of the late Senator Count Wrangel, has a very elegant ſhape, and great delicacy in her features. The eldeſt daughter of Colonel Montgomery is of ſtouter compoſition, but is upon the whole a handſome young lady.

The three daughters of Count Stackelberg are all very handſome.

The daughter and very picture of the Counteſs Hoepken, will now very ſoon be preſented at Court; and there are a great number of beauties growing up,

who will ſoon remind us of the blooming years of their reſpective mothers.

To return to the ladies who are more known in the world, there is one of remarkable beauty, the Counteſs Hamilton, a daughter of the late Mr. Peterſen, who was unjuſtly perſecuted at the Diet of 1765. For ſo handſome a lady, ſhe has been very little expoſed to the remarks of envy; only that it has been doubted, whether the great friendſhip ſhe profeſſed for a young Counteſs lately deceaſed, was not occaſioned by a greater regard for the Count her huſband.

Her elder ſiſter married to the Colonel Baron Klingſpor, though a very charm-

ing

ing lady, has never had any adventures put upon her account; nor her younger ſiſter, the Baroneſs Duben. Their huſbands alſo are both of them very accompliſhed gentlemen.

Their ſiſter in law, Mrs. Peterſens, formerly Miſs Forbus, was one of the greateſt beauties of her time. Her three daughters are alſo reckoned very handſome. The eldeſt is lately married to Count Schwerin.

The lady of the Secretary of State Schroederheim is remarkable for her wit and agreeable humour, good taſte in her dreſs, and eaſy politeneſs to every body. As ſhe always receives a great deal of

company in her houſe, it is difficult to diſtinguiſh any of her particular favourites.

The lady of the Maſter of the Ceremonies Fredhenheim, is of an agreeable figure, and great acquired accompliſhments. She is the daughter of an eminent merchant, Mr. Hebbe, who will leave her one of the largeſt fortunes in the country; ſhe is a diſtinguiſhed performer on the harpſichord, and the only one compared to the young Baroneſs Wrangel.

Miſs Oernſhoeld, daughter to a very reſpectable nobleman, Baron Oernſhoeld of Malmwik, is of a good figure, though not handſome face; and her modeſty on that account may be cited as an example.

At a Maſquerade ſhe was very much perſecuted by a faſhionable beau, who, charmed by her witty and agreeable converſation, pretended to die with impatience to ſee her face. She told him ſhe would not comply with his requeſt for fear of loſing at once all the good opinion he now pretended to entertain in her favour, becauſe ſhe thought herſelf the moſt ugly perſon among her equals in the capital. "No, Madam," anſwered he, "do yourſelf more juſtice; it is impoſſible you could be uglier than Miſs Oernſhoeld." She had good ſenſe enough to laugh heartily at the compliment, which alſo every unprepoſſeſſed perſon muſt think an unjuſt one. It is true ſhe is very much marked with the ſmall pox, but ſhe has

pretty

pretty eyes, and her features are far from being diſagreeable. The gentleman was the more confounded at his miſtake, as he was a frequent viſitor at the houſe of her parents, who have always been looked upon as very agreeable, and where he was received with the greateſt politeneſs. But ſuch gratitude is very common in the pretended polite world.

The Baroneſs, her mother, has alſo been unmercifully rallied on account of her paſſion for gaming. There are ſtories told by young people who have been invited to her ſuppers, and made her parties at cards at home and abroad, how ſhe often has ordered her coach for midnight, and kept it waiting in the coldeſt winter till four or ſix in the morning; how one coachman

man and ſeveral horſes have been ſtarved with cold; without diſturbing her attention at the gaming table, not to mention other exaggerations upon this ſubject.

To compleat the picture, ſeveral reſpectable characters, who make more conſtantly her parties at L'hombre, have been charged in the ſame manner. There is a known ſtory upon the account of a nobleman of the firſt conſideration in the kingdom, how one day waiting for his dinner longer than uſual, and not finding even the cloth laid, he went down on purpoſe to ſcold the ſervants, who faithful in following the example of their maſter, were all engaged at cards; and upon his reproaches, excuſed themſelves with being now at the

moſt

moſt intereſting point of the game. The butler being the moſt deeply concerned, took the liberty to explain the caſe to his Excellency, who in conſcience could not but approve his reaſons; but being unwilling to wait the iſſue for having his dinner, he ſent the butler to prepare the table, while he himſelf condeſcended to ſit down with the others, and take care of the intereſt of the abſent party, until the game was finiſhed.

CHAP-

CHAPTER XX.

A Drawing-Room at the Swediſh Court ends commonly with a public ſupper for the Royal Family, who ſit alone at table, all the Nobility and Officers of the Kingdom ſtanding around as mere ſpectators; the Ladies of the Senators, and thoſe of the ſame rank, having alone the priviledge to be ſeated on *tabourets*, placed in a half circle in face of the King and Queen, at ſome diſtance from the table.

The Officers of the reſpective Courts ſtand directly behind the chair of the perſon

to whom they belong; the Senators at the King's left hand; and the Ambaſſadors, and other foreigners of diſtinction, on his right. The King ſpeaks to every one in the order belonging to their rank, favour, or other circumſtances.

The diſhes are ſerved and the plates preſented to the Royal Family, by an Officer called Gentleman of the Court: This Officer is commonly Mr. v. Hauſwolf, a very nice and elegant beau, but with all that a man of abilities, and having a poſt in the King's Chancery. The former part of his merit is alſo claimed by his comrade in the office at Court, Mr. Wallencreutz; but he never does any ſervice; having been promoted

to

to that place merely in conſideration of his father, who ventured to counterſign the King's orders, as Secretary of State, during the three firſt days of the Revolution in 1772.

The Marſhal is ſtanding, during the whole entertainment, directly before the King; and the Director of his Majeſty's Oeconomy a little to the right, behind him; though their preſence is commonly not of the leaſt uſe.

When the King has done, he makes a ſign to the Queen, and to the reſt of the Family, and all having anſwered with a bow, he riſes from table, takes a moſt gracious leave, and returns to his

his own apartments, followed by the Officers of his Court. The reſt of the Royal Family do the ſame, according to the eſtabliſhed order.

It is reckoned a conſiderable want of reſpect to retire before the Royal Family riſe from table; and the fault is greater, in proportion to the rank of the guilty.

I dwell upon theſe particulars, becauſe there is hardly a Court upon earth where formalities are more obſerved.

Of this the Prince of Holſtein and deſigned Duke-Biſhop of Lubeck made a diſagreeable experience, on a friendly viſit he paid to his Couſins of the Royal Houſe

Houſe of Sweden. Before he could appear any where, he was obliged to pay his firſt viſit to the Prime Miniſter, Count Ulric Scheffer, who was not permitted to prevent him. By his means the Prince was preſented at Court, and received with all the formality of an Ambaſſador. At the Public Supper he would have been obliged to ſtand a ſpectator with the reſt of diſtinguiſhed foreigners, if a little indiſpoſition coming on a ſudden, had not furniſhed an excuſe for his abſence. For all this the King gave a reaſon, which, as ſoon as formality ſhould be obſerved, was perhaps a very good one: That the Swediſh Senators were, ſince the time of Guſtavus Adolphus, entitled to equal honours with all

the Princes of the empire below the rank of Electors; and in conſequence, the Princes of the empire could not pretend to any other prerogatives in Sweden than what belonged to the Senatorial dignity in that kingdom.

The Queen Dowager did not trouble herſelf at all with enquiries about the rank of her gueſt; ſhe received him cordially, as the nephew of her late huſband, and with the marks of eſteem due to a Prince whoſe qualities might do honour to any family in the world. To give him what ſhe thought his right, without injuring that of any body elſe, ſhe had the places at her table diſtributed by cloſed tickets; every perſon took

took one, and placed himſelf according to the number thereof; but ſhe had given ſecret orders that the number belonging to the place between her and the Princeſs ſhould be reſerved for the Prince, and put into the hat after all the others were drawn. Thus ſhe paid him an agreeable compliment, without the leaſt ſeeming affectation, or giving uneaſineſs to any perſon.

The Swediſh dreſs gives an appearance of magnificence to the Court, without being half ſo expenſive as the ordinary cuſtom of Europe; with three or four ſuits of cloaths you may appear at every Drawing-Room for as many years: The colour and form being once

fixed, there is no room for variations.

The dreſs of the ladies differs very little from the preſent Engliſh faſhion; except that the ſleeves are cut in the Spaniſh manner, and tied with a ribbon about the middle of the upper part of the arm, a large ſleeve of white gauze ſwelling out above and below the binding. The colour of the gown and coat is black, except on Gala days, when it is white; the *talbalas* and trimmings are always of the ſame colour with the ſuit. The head-dreſs and ribbons are the only parts left to the fancy of the ſex.

The

The dreſs of the men is a mixture of the Spaniſh and that in uſe among the peaſants in the Southern parts of Sweden. Their ſmall-cloaths are in the ordinary form, and of the ſame colour with the coat and mantle; the former of which is cloſe to the body, and very ſhort, all buttoned and tied about the thighs with a ſaſh. The mantle goes down below the knee, and hangs looſely on the back, though it is commonly wide enough to be thrown round like a Spaniſh mantle.

The ordinary colour is black; the mantle is lined with *couleur de feu*, or ſcarlet coloured ſilk, of the ſame ſtuff with the ſaſh and waiſtcoat; all the ſeams

of the coat are alſo trimmed with the ſame, as well as a row of tongues which cover the ſeam that joins the ſleeve to the coat, and adds to the breadth of the ſhoulders.

In mourning, the ſuit is all black; and on Gala days, of light blue ſilk, with white trimmings. It was in the beginning white, with red lining, ſaſh, and trimmings; and for the ladies, white coats with red gowns; but ſome ſatyrical wit having compared them to boiled crabs, they inſiſted upon having another colour; and to be ſure none could be found to look ſo elegant as white, which had alſo been formerly received

for

for ſolemn occaſions at this Court, as well as in many others.

This uniformity of dreſs has a very good effect in the Drawing-Room, and ſtrangers generally allow that it gives an air of grandeur, more ſtriking than all the party coloured magnificence of other Courts; perhaps from the ſame reaſon, as it gives greater ſatisfaction to the eye to ſee a military corps in the moſt ſuperb uniform, than with a richer apparel, and every one in different colours.

For the army, this dreſs was in the beginning very convenient, and better calculated for a cold climate than the

common European cuſtom; but as it is at preſent, the length of the coat or jacket having been reduced from the middle of the thigh to the middle of the ſtomach, the girdle, commonly made of bunting, is ſeldom ſufficient to cover the interval between the upper and lower garments, and the poor ſoldier is often in danger of periſhing with cold: But it is very light in ſummer, and gives a ſmart appearance to young fellows of a good figure.

CHAP.

CHAPTER XXI.

NEXT to the Court, the beſt place for making acquaintance is the Aſſembly held once a week or fortnight at the upper hall of the Exchange. It begins at ſix o'clock, and continues till ten or eleven; and you are ſure to ſee moſt people of faſhion in the capital. As ſoon as there are a ſufficient number to form country dances, the muſic begins, and the hall is ſpacious enough for nine or ten dancing parties. There are alſo different rooms for gaming tables. About eight o'clock the Royal Family commonly appear, but without cauſing any interruption

ruption in the entertainments. The Queen with ſome of her Ladies uſually go into one of the balconies, while the King, the Dukes and Princeſſes walk about the room, look on the dance, or honour ſome of the byeſtanders with their converſation.

The King makes the tour of the room, and takes notice of every perſon with the ſame exactneſs as in the Drawing-room; even of many ladies who have not been preſented at Court, but are of diſtinguiſhed families among the Clergy and Gentry; he honours alſo the moſt eminent in the trading line with his notice, ſuch as Mrs. Wahrendorff, her ſiſter Mrs. Langenberg, and niece Mrs. Arvidſon; the two daughters of Mr. Conradi,

married

married to Meſſrs. Koſhell; Mrs. Haſſel, Mrs. Reimers, and ſeveral others; who live in a very genteel ſtile, and whoſe education and perſonal qualities make their acquaintance courted by the beſt company in the capital.

From the inſtitution of this Aſſembly by his Excellency Baron Charles Sparre, it was open to all company of reſpectable appearance without other formality than paying for the entrance. But the King has ſince ordered, that as the place is frequented by the Royal Family, people of a certain rank cannot appear there without having been preſented at Court. This regulation however was not made

public

public till the time of the adventure of the Counteſs Kagheneck.

This lady, the wife of the Ambaſſador from Vienna, being of a birth that entitled her to be ſaluted on the cheek by the Empreſs or Princeſſes of the Imperial family, would not ſubmit to any other ceremonial, and to kiſs the hand of the Queen and Princeſſes of the Court of Sweden thought it below her rank; for which reaſon her preſentation had been deferred till theſe material points could be ſettled. But as her youth and ſprightlineſs did not much agree with ſuch a confinement, ſhe thought ſhe might at leaſt enjoy the amuſements of the inferior claſs of gentry in the country, and go to the Aſſembly; eſpecially

cially as the room would be very much crowded, every body being very desirous to see the Queen, who was but lately come abroad after the birth of the Prince Royal.

As no one made the least objection to her scheme, she was highly delighted with the idea. She was introduced by her husband, and placed on a balcony, that she might have a better view of the room. I don't know if it was from ignorance, or some other reason, that she fixed on a place very near that which usually was reserved for the Queen.

The King, at his first entrance, was struck with the sight of the Countess; and

and taking perhaps her appearance, and the place ſhe occupied, as a ſort of defiance, he ordered Mr. Plommenfelt, Maſter of the Ceremonies, to tell Count Kagheneck that it was not proper for his Lady to be in the ſame room with the Royal Family.

Mr. Plommenfelt, willing to give the eaſieſt turn poſſible to an affair of that nature, went up to the Count, and told him in confidence, and as of his own will, that it was not uſual for perſons of ſuch a rank to appear with the Royal Family before they had been duly preſented, and therefore he took the liberty to give him the advice, leaving it to himſelf

ſelf to make what uſe of it he ſhould think proper.

The Count, perhaps from ſome perſonal diſſatisfaction with Mr. Plommenfelt, told him very rudely that he had no advice to receive from him, and ſent him about his buſineſs.

Mr. Plommenfelt returned to the King, and aſked if it was his Majeſty's intention that the Counteſs ſhould leave the room, and having had an anſwer in the affirmative, he told the Count plainly the King's orders, and they were as punctually obeyed.

The Count repreſented this affair in ſuch a light

a light to his Court, that he was permitted to leave Stockholm immediately; and for ſeveral years the Emperor had no Ambaſſador in Sweden.

During the King's ſtay in Italy, the difference was accommodated. The Emperor paid him a viſit early in the morning, and waited in the antichamber till the King was riſen. The firſt words the Emperor ſaid to him were, "You ſee how little I ſtand upon ceremony." The preſent Ambaſſador from Vienna, Count Stadion, has had no diſpute of that kind.

Count Kagheneck's predeceſſor in the Embaſſy, Count Kaunitz, a ſon to the Prime Miniſter Duke of Kaunitz, and a deſcen-

a deſcendant in the female line of the Royal family of Vaſa, in Sweden, paſſed his time very agreeably at that Court. Being of an handſome figure, young, and very generous, he was a great favourite with the fair ſex. At his firſt arrival in the country, he only found fault of the cheapneſs of living there, and was afraid he would not have any means of ſpending his revenues; but before he left Stockholm, I have been told, he was convinced of the contrary. Had he come a few years later, he would have found no reaſon for ſuch a complaint. Stockholm is now perhaps, except London, the moſt expenſive place in Europe.

The public entertainments however are

no where cheaper. The firſt places at the play houſes are half a crown, and the admiſſion to the Aſſembly already mentioned is at the ſame price, including tea and other refreſhments. The prices at the Opera are about ten pence higher; but this theatre may perhaps be reckoned the ſecond of the kind in Europe, there being only that at Paris which exceeds it: and the ſuperiority of the latter is more in the dancing part than in any other. There are however at preſent, in the Opera at Stockholm, a number of good dancers, as Meſſrs. Bournonville, Marcadet, Didelot, and Uttini, Miſs Baſſi, Mrs. Alix, Miſs Slottberg, Miſs Aberg, and Miſs Brelin; among whom the two latter have profited much by the example and

inſtruction

inſtruction of Miſs Baſſi, who has herſelf been carefully brought up by Daubreval, a celebrated French maſter.

As to the beauty of figures, extent and flexibility of voices, juſtneſs of accompanyment, pathetic action, magnificence of dreſs, and illuſion of ſcenery, the Swediſh Opera is ſo little inferior to the French, that ſtrangers, who have ſeen both, have in ſome reſpects lately given the preference to the former, eſpecially for the beauty and finiſhing of the decorations, ſince that department has been under the care of Mr. Deprés, a celebrated French painter of architecture, and Mr. Bruſſel, a native of Sweden, who has

employed himſelf entirely in ſcene painting.

When the late Queen Dowager came back from her viſit at Berlin, ſhe thought ſhe had ſeen there a very good opera, and expreſſed ſome doubt whether the new eſtabliſhed Swediſh ſtage could enter into any compariſon with it; but after having ſeen a repreſentation of *Thetis and Peleus*, which notwithſtanding is far from being the beſt of the Swediſh operas, ſhe could not help complimenting the King; though with ſome apparent cenſoriouſneſs: wiſhing he might be equally ſucceſsful in enterprizes of greater importance.

There has certainly been no want of more

more important cares; yet the King has ſtill kept up this inſtitution, the expence of which is nearly twenty-five thouſand pounds a year, out of his own pocket.

A more particular account of the Swediſh Stage may perhaps not be diſagreeable to the reader.

CHAPTER XXII.

DURING the reign of the late King Adolphus, the Court-Theatre was occupied by a band of French comedians, whom King Guſtavus ſent home to their country, as it appears, rather for their want of talents, than from any other motive; becauſe a few years after, there was another band engaged, certainly not leſs expenſive than the former.

But as every thing muſt be admired in a new reign, the abolition of the French Play was extolled as the firſt exertion of a patriotic ſpirit in the young Sovereign;

Sovereign; the more when he ſeemed to prefer ſome very indifferent Swediſh comedies. Theſe, by order, were repreſented at the Court Theatre, by a band of players who were the remainder of a very good one, formerly ſupported by a Senator, Count Wrangel, the late Count Hoepken, the Chamberlain Olthoff, and others, but greatly reduced by want of encouragement during the laſt reign; as there muſt always be made ſome allowance for the unavoidable imperfections of a new eſtabliſhment, and the Queen had too refined a taſte, to ſupport any thing beneath the celebrated maſter-pieces of the French ſtage.

Though the old Mr. Stenborg, pro-

prietor of the privilege granted to this Swediſh band, was himſelf in no great reputation, neither as a player or a manager, yet the Swediſh ſtage is indebted to him for having preſerved a ſort of tradition of the art, and kept in exerciſe ſome very good ſubjects, without whom there would never have been a poſſibility of attempting the new eſtabliſhment.

Among thoſe, his ſon, Mr. Charles Stenborg, has been the moſt uſeful. Though his education and abilities put him very much above his father's theatrical performances, and he had already been provided with a place in the office of the Marſhal of the Kingdom; yet having

having from the exerciſes of his firſt years preſerved the habitude of an eaſy declamation, and joining to the advantage of a very good voice a remarkable ſkill in muſic, he was prevailed upon by the King to take a part in the opera of *Thetis and Peleus*; as ſoon as his Majeſty, who can bear mediocrity no more than his mother could, had reſolved to make up, at leaſt by magnificence, what the Swediſh ſtage might yet be deficient in other reſpects.

The young Mr. Stenborg would not accept the offer on other conditions, than that he might ſtill preſerve his former place; that the Opera ſhould bear the name of a Royal Society for promoting

Muſic

Muſic and Declamation, and that in conſequence people of muſical talents, above the ſtation of common players, might be induced to appear with him on the ſtage. All theſe requeſts being granted, Mr. Stenborg undertook the part of Peleus, and prevailed upon Mrs. Olin, a celebrated muſical lady and the wife of a lawyer of great reputation, to take the part of Thetis; that of Jupiter fell to Mr. Lalin, a Secretary of the ſame office with Mr. Stenborg; that of Neptune to Mr. Norden, Director of the Muſic to one of the principal churches; and ſo on with the reſt.

The Poem was ſketched by the King himſelf, and verſified by Mr. Velander, who

who was rewarded with a golden ſnuff-box containing a conſiderable preſent in money; and ſoon after he was alſo provided with a place among the Aldermen of the city of Stockholm, half the number of whom are lawyers, and the places in the gift of the King.

Mr. Uttini, compoſer of the muſic, had alſo a very handſome preſent; beſides a penſion of 500l. a year for life, after he quitted the place of Director of the Muſical Band of the Court.

The play was acted twice a week for ſix months together, with an audience equally as numerous as in the beginning.

The

The next opera was ACIS AND GALATEA, tranſlated from the Engliſh, with ſome additions, by Mr. Lalin, and the Swediſh words adapted to the muſic of the celebrated Handel. This piece, in a quite different taſte from the former, had an equal ſucceſs; being alſo acted by the ſame perſons, with the addition of Mr. Bioerkman, Director of Muſic to the cathedral of Calmar. He is allowed to have no equal as Poliphemus in this opera, and as Hercules in Alceſte; though in other pieces Mr. Swartling has filled the place of Mr. Bioerkman with a great deal of ſucceſs.

ORPHEUS AND EURYDICE was the next.

In

In this opera the muſic of Gluck was univerſally applauded; but the words, tranſlated from the Italian by a native of Italy, with the aſſiſtance of a Swediſh phyſician, proved a very ſtrange piece of poetry. In this opera the eldeſt Miſs Olin, and the ſon of Mr. Lalin, have alternately filled the part of Cupid, with equal applauſe. Miſs Olin has retired from the ſtage, but the young Mr. Lalin has ſince been the admiration of the public for one of the fineſt voices that ever was heard on the Swediſh theatre, in the part of Orpheus, from the new tranſlation of this opera by Mr. Riſtel, Librarian to his Majeſty.

The

The following pieces were alſo brought out at the Opera Houſe:

SILVIE, tranſlated from the French by Baron Manderſtroem, late Marſhal of the Queen's Court, and Commander of the Royal Order of the Polar Star. Mr. Lalin adapted the Swediſh words to the muſic of Meſſrs. Berton and Trial.

EGLE, repreſented in the year 1774 and NEPTUNE AND AMPHITRITE, in the year 1775, two ſmall operas by Mr. Adlerbeth, Secretary to his Majeſty, and Knight of the Polar Star. The muſic by the late Mr. Johnſen.

ALINE QUEEN OF GOLCONDA, a very happy

happy imitation of a well known French opera. It is the work of Mr. Zibet, his Majeſty's Secretary, Member of the Regency in the German Provinces, and Knight of the Polar Star. He is alſo the author of a charming prologue to the opera of Orpheus and Euridice. The muſic to the Queen of Golconda is compoſed by Mr. Uttini.

In ADONIS by Mr. Flintberg, and CEPHALUS AND PROCRIS by Mr. Adlerbeth, there appeared a new actreſs, Mad. Auguſti, whoſe excellent voice and happy memory have ſince been very uſeful to the ſtage.

AMPHION, with a Prologue, both of them

them by Mr. Adlerbeth, and ſet to muſic by Mr. Nauman, Director of the Muſical Band at the Court of Dreſden. This compoſer, who is remarkable for the great ſenſibility expreſſed in his muſic, was propoſed by the Counteſs Loevenhjelm, at her return from that Court; and he was in conſequence engaged to compoſe the muſic of this opera, with which very few have had an equal ſucceſs. In this piece appeared, for the firſt time, Mr. Karſten, who has ſince been the only rival of Mr. Stenborg for the partiality of the public.

IPHIGENIA IN AULIS, tranſlated from the French by Baron Manderſtroem, and the words adapted to the muſic of Gluck by Mr. Lalin. In this opera have ſucceſſively

ceſſively appeared the two beſt actreſſes on the Swediſh ſtage, Mrs. Marcadet and Miſs Stading. The former is now more admired in the parts of Queen, and acts commonly that of Clytemneſtra, ſince the latter is looked upon as incomparable in that of Iphigenia, as well as in all other perſonages where youth and beauty are required.*

Alceste, the celebrated production of Gluck. The two firſt acts were tranſlated from the Italian by Captain Hertzenhjelm, and the third from the French by Mr. Kellgren; the words are adapted to the muſic by Mr. Lalin.

* Of thoſe who have hitherto appeared, Miſs Inga Aberg ſeems to come the neareſt to Miſs Stading.

This piece was looked upon as the moſt intereſting theatrical production that ever appeared in Sweden; and much of its ſucceſs was attributed to the appearance of a new actreſs from Copenhagen, Mrs. Muller, to whoſe figure, voice, and pathetic delivery, was aſcribed the ſurpriſing impreſſion her perſonage made upon the audience. Every one knows, that the authors of the poem and the muſic may always claim a good ſhare in the praiſes on this piece, but it muſt alſo be allowed that Mrs. Muller has a great deal of merit, eſpecially in pathetic parts, and has had equal ſucceſs both in Iphigenia in Tauris, and in Armida; though ſhe has perhaps appeared to leſs advantage in the Queen of Golconda, Angelique, and

other

other characters, where there is required more art than paſſion.

Miſs Lilliegren, a native of Finlandia, is alſo a very good actreſs in the ſame line, though not ſo much in favour with the public as Mrs. Muller.

Alceſte was the laſt opera given at the old theatre; the new magnificent playhouſe facing the palace of the Princeſs Royal, in the ſquare prepared for the equeſtrian ſtatue of Guſtavus Adolphus, was opened with the repreſentation of CORA, a very intereſting as well as pompous opera; the ſubject taken from Marmontel's well known American Tale, has been embelliſhed with all the charms of

poetry by Mr. Adlerbeth, upon a plan regulated by the King. His Majeſty has alſo been pleaſed to employ the pen of two other eminent poets upon ſubjects choſen and put in order by himſelf, viz. Mr. Kellgren in two operas, GUSTAVUS VASA, and GUSTAVUS ADOLPHUS, and Mr. Leopold in FRIGGA, a beautiful ſubject from the ancient Hiſtory of Sweden. They have all had a very good ſucceſs; but none ſo much as Guſtavus Vaſa, which is alſo the moſt regular piece. The crowd at the playhouſe was ſo great, that it was not poſſible to have a place without having one's name inſcribed at leaſt a month before; and the audience would ſtill be equally numerous after near fifty repreſentations, if they had not been diſcontinued,

continued, I don't know why; if not, as it is commonly believed, in compliment to the Daniſh Court. But I think it impoſſible the Danes ſhould take any offence from a piece, in which the only perſonage of their nation, the Admiral Severin Norby, is one of the nobleſt characters that ever appeared on the ſtage. As to Chriſtiernus II. they can take the leſs intereſt in him, as his fate was equally in Denmark as in Sweden, to be deprived of a Royalty diſgraced by his conduct. The muſic of Guſtavus Vaſa, as well as that of Cora, eſtabliſhed the reputation of Mr. Nauman, already founded by his Amphion; I mean in reſpect to Sweden; for in other parts of Europe he was already known.

With all that, Gluck has the greateſt number of admirers among the compoſers known in Sweden; and his IPHIGENIA IN TAURIS, as well as ARMIDA, both tranſlated by Mr. Riſtel and adapted to the muſic without the leaſt alteration, have been very much followed. ROLAND, and ATYS, both alſo tranſlated by Mr. Riſtel, with the ſame reſpect to the muſic of Mr. Piccini, met with a leſs general approbation, when his ELECTRA, ſet to muſic by Mr. Hæffner, a young imitator of Gluck, has been more favourably received.

I do not know if any general concluſion may be drawn from the opinion prevailing in Sweden on this ſubject; but

but every country, which has the means to afford an opera, can make the ſame experiment, by tranſlating into their own language the pieces ſet to muſic by this and other celebrated maſters; and by repeated obſervations, drawn from the effects upon the feelings of the public, bring into ſyſtem the principles of judging pictures in ſounds, as well as thoſe in words and colours. For ſuch a purpoſe as well as for the greater pleaſure of the audience, it is neceſſary that the language ſhould be more generally underſtood than the Italian is, or can be, either in England, Germany, or Ruſſia, where now the tranſalpine trebles are in poſſeſſion of the muſical ſtage.

The principal objection* that can be made againſt a National Opera is, that no ſuch fingers as the Italian Virtuoſos can be found in any other nation. To this the anſwer is very eaſy, if it may be allowed as a general rule: that every pleaſure by means deviating from nature muſt ariſe from a depraved taſte. Why ſhould it be thought more agreeable in a man to have the voice of a woman, than in a woman to have the voice of a man? The difference eſtabliſhed by nature are the only ſources of true pleaſure; and every perſon who has heard at Paris or at Stockholm the Duos of Alceſte

* One more could be made, that all languages are not equally apt for muſic; but all languages are proper to expreſs the accents of the ſoul. The French is perhaps leſs muſical than any other, and yet the French Opera is the beſt in it's kind.

and

and Admetus, of Roland and Angelique, of Armida and Hidraoth, or that of Agamemnon and Achilles; the Trio of Iphigenia, Oreſte, and Pilades, and even the Finale of the third act in the ſame opera, will defy all the Signori in the world to produce any ſuch effect. A male character muſt always be expreſſed in a male voice; the contraſt with the ſoftneſs and delicacy peculiar to the other ſex is thus rendered the more ſtriking; and we all agree that monotony is the greateſt enemy to pleaſure. But ſuch an imitating creature is man, that we often adopt a faſhionable opinion even in contradiction to our own ſenſes.

I know there are philoſophers who pretend

pretend that muſic ſhould be entirely out of queſtion in a dramatic entertainment, becauſe it muſt either expreſs the ſame thing as the words, or ſomething foreign to the ſentiments; and that in the firſt caſe it is ſuperfluous, and in the other quite deſtructive to the effect. This latter ſhould certainly be avoided; but as to the former caſe, I have heard thoſe, who delight in muſic, agree, that it often ſerves to enforce the ſentiment, and leaves a deeper impreſſion in the ſoul, than the ſame words repeated without muſic. With people who are inſenſible to melody by want of a muſical ſenſe, there is no reaſoning upon the ſubject, any more than upon colours with thoſe deprived of ſight.

Beſides

Beſides the operas already repreſented on the Swediſh Stage, there are ſeveral others ready; among which Dido and Eneas, ſketched by the King, written by Mr. Kellgren, and ſet to muſic by Mr Krauſe ſucceſſor of Mr. Uttini, is expected with great impatience. Before this opera was known, Mr. Uttini was already at work with another upon the ſame ſubject, under the name of Eneas at Carthago, written by Mr. Riſtel; and as the poems were found of a turn totally different, the King had permitted that the latter ſhould alſo be repreſented. The parts were diſtributed for the rehearſal of both, before the breaking out of the preſent war; which having opened another canal of expences, will probably for ſome time put off the repreſentation

ſentation of any new operas, eſpecially as there is already a ſufficient number to keep up a continual variation, all the year round.

CHAP-

CHAPTER XXIII.

SATISFYING as this entertainment is to all the rational ſenſes of man, it was ſome time neglected for a ſet of expatriated French players the King had engaged in his ſervice: They were at firſt only to exerciſe their talents before their Majeſties and the Court, and a ſaloon in the Royal Palace was fitted up for the purpoſe; but as the King ſeldom miſſes an occaſion to mark particular attentions, the Nobility and ſome of the principal Officers in the different departments of Adminiſtration were, by turn, invited to the French Play; and the

the frequency of thoſe invitations were looked upon as the ſtandard of the perſon's favour and credit at Court.

The happy mortals who were admitted to this entertainment, did not undervalue its excellency in their report. The curioſity and clamours of the public were raiſed to ſuch a degree, that it was thought beſt to tranſport the new French ſtage to the old playhouſe, and admit every one who choſe to pay for the entrance.

Now there aroſe another difficulty: The demands for places were ſo numerous, that not the fourth part could be ſatisfied; and the Swediſh Opera, on the contrary,

contrary, was quite deſerted. This occaſioned new regulations: that thoſe who took places for the year at the Opera ſhould have a right of preference at the other houſe. This gave the advantage to thoſe who could afford to pay both, and the number of pretenders was conſiderably reduced. But ſuch is the power of pre-occupation, that many of the boxes at the Opera, which had been thus forcibly taken, ſtood empty at the repreſentations of Alceſte and Iphigenia; when the beams of the other Play-houſe bowed under the weight of a moſt numerous audience, at a tragedy poorly recited, or couplets out of tune and meaſure.

'Tis

'Tis neither my intention, nor in my power, to depreciate the talents and merits of ſome among the members of this dramatical band; but their great ſuperiority was often detrimental to the whole, in the ſame meaſure, as it put into a ſtronger light the deficiency of the reſt.

The heat of enthuſiaſm abating by degrees, the public, in the courſe of a year, at laſt obſerved, that a great familiarity with the language was required for to enjoy all the delicacies of a dramatical entertainment; and the audience was within a ſhort time reduced to the number of thoſe, who living within the Court, had free entrance, and of ſome others who were in expectation of preferment,

and

and very few who underſtood French well enough to feel the beauties of the poetry, and the merit of the performance.

This ſtate of affairs gave birth to the idea of introducing the Swediſh language inſtead of the French, in tragedies and comedies, to which the public opinion ſeemed ſtill to give preference before the Opera. This had been attempted by Count Charles Ferſen ſome years before; when the tragedy of Iphigenia, by Mr. Adlerbeth, Athalia, by Mr. Muhrberg, Birger Jarl, by Count Gyllenborg, and Merope, by Mr. Riſtel, had been repreſented with great ſucceſs; but moſt

part of the performers belonging to the Opera, wanted to be paid ſeparately for this extra buſineſs; they pretended their loſs of time, and at laſt, when there was little proſpect of any augmentation in their ſalaries, they complained alſo that the efforts of declamation proved hurtful to their voice, and begged to be exempted from appearing in tragedies.

Mr. Riſtel, who from being continually preſent at the rehearſals in the houſe of Count Ferſen, and encouraged by him to write for the ſtage, had taken the ſame zeal for theatricals, and employed moſt part of his time upon that kind of literature, without reaping any benefit

benefit from ſo many years labour,* thought now the occaſion favourable for executing the ſcheme of his deceaſed patron, in eſtabliſhing a Swediſh Stage upon the model of the French Comedy at Paris.

But as it required time for finding out and forming actors capable to ſupport any ſuch inſtitution, and alſo for re-imburſing the firſt expences, Mr. Riſtel obtained for himſelf a privilege of ſix years; and to engage men of genius in the poetical way to furniſh the ſtage with pieces, the benefit of three repreſentations was allotted to the author of every tragedy or comedy in five or three acts;

* I conclude that, from having heard his gratuitous aſſiduity admired by the Directors themſelves.

beſides two prizes, one of thirty and one of fifteen guineas, for thoſe among the plays repreſented in the courſe of every year, which ſhould be found the beſt in the judgment of the Swediſh Academy.

The King granted the uſe of the old playhouſe with the ſcenery, and the loan of cloaths from the magazine of the Opera; which laſt advantage was however very much reduced by thoſe who had the adminiſtration of that ſtage.

As ſoon as this project was known, it met with a great deal of contradiction from the faſhionable world. Thoſe who had made very free in ridiculing of others, did not chuſe to ſee the compli-

ment

ment returned, as might poſſibly be the conſequence of a National Stage. The inſtitution was thus condemned as contrary to good manners, and deſtructive of all eſtabliſhed order in ſociety. People of knowledge and of a ſounder judgment, made an objection of more weight, taken from the nature of the Swediſh language; as having two different pronunciations, one in which every letter in a word is heard juſt as it is written, which is adopted for the pulpit and other branches of oratory; the other eſtabliſhed by cuſtom for common uſe, has a great number of abbreviations, and even in ſeveral inſtances deviates from the rules of grammar. Now it is almoſt impoſſible, in ſtudying a part, to avoid the literal pronun-

ciation, which alſo anſwers very well in a tragedy; but in a comedy, where the dialogue muſt have the mode of an ordinary converſation, that ſtrict and formal way of pronouncing the words is ſhocking to the ear, in the ſame proportion as it deviates from common uſe. Whence it was concluded, that a comedy in the Swediſh language could never have that natural and eaſy air, which is required in ſuch a kind of entertainment; and without comedies, it would be impoſſible to keep up the inſtitution.

To remove this objection in the very beginning, Mr. Riſtel reſolved to open the new Swediſh Stage with a comedy; and having compoſed one in imitation of the

the well known French piece, *Le Cercle, de Poinſinet*, in which the idiom of converſation was followed as nigh as poſſible, he had the parts copied with the ſame ſpelling as they ſhould be recited on the ſtage. By this method, the formal and ſolemn pronunciation was avoided, and the ſpeech rendered more natural and familiar to the ear. Though this precaution proved almoſt unneceſſary, for moſt part of the performers, being people accuſtomed to good company and of a liberal education, and prompted by a laudable zeal conſented to mount the ſtage, to ſupport an enterprize calculated for the culture of the language and the advantage of belles-lettres, as much as for the amuſement of the public.

The privilege was granted in April 1787, and in the beginning of June the ſame year, the ſtage was opened with a repreſentation of the comedy already mentioned, and a preceding ſcene by way of prologue adapted to the occaſion. This was ſo well received, that it was called upon to be recited twice; and the whole entertainment met with the moſt general approbation.

The King was ſo well pleaſed with the performers, that he took the moſt flattering notice of them all; and they were the ſame ſummer honoured with a command to attend at Drottningholm, to repreſent a pompous drama, compoſed by Mr. Kellgren upon a plan given by his Majeſty.

Majeſty. This was executed to the ſatisfaction of the Court, as well as ſeveral comic pieces of their own repertory for the ſtage of the capital.

Within the ſpace of one year, ſixteen new pieces were repreſented; among which the moſt ſucceſsful were Siri Brahe, and Helmfeld, both ſubjects taken from the hiſtory of Sweden, and maſterly treated by an illuſtrious author; who, though eaſily known by the ſuperiority of his ſtile, has not permitted himſelf to be named.

Thus far Mr. Riſtel had reaſon to be ſatisfied with the ſucceſs of his enterprize. But as no judgment can be formed upon talents before they have had occaſion to exert

exert themſelves, and he had been obliged to engage in the beginning thirty or forty perſons who afterwards proved of no uſe, but whom he was equally bound to pay; all his payments run from the month of April, and ſcarcely any benefit aroſe to himſelf from the repreſentations before the following winter. This, together with the forming of a new wardrobe, and the enormous daily expences, amounting almoſt to half the poſſible produce of the play-houſe, and which could not be reduced before experience had indicated the means, had cauſed him a conſiderable loſs; though not much greater than the yearly expences upon the French Play at the ſame theatre, if all had been put into the account. It was however very probable that the

remaining

remaining five years of his privilege might have made this good; and his tradeſmen were very reaſonable people, and willing to wait his time; but one among them having unexpectedly attacked him in a manner that rendered it impoſſible for him to attend to his buſineſs,* the performers took this occaſion to have his intended eſtabliſhment of an independent ſtage put into execution ſooner than he intended. A new privilege was obtained for them; and beſides the advantages granted to the firſt inſtitution, they had a preſent from the King of twelve thouſand pounds, of which the intereſt was

* Mr. Riſtel might have come off perhaps very ill, had not his brother in law, Mr. Darelli, had the generoſity to interpoſe, and become reſponſible himſelf to the Creditors.

to make up for the daily expences, and the whole yearly income to be divided into twenty ſeven lots; of which every one among the firſt performers had at leaſt one, and the others in proportion to their merit and ſervices.

Two lots were excepted; one as a ſalary for a ſecretary, who ſhould receive the pieces that were preſented for the ſtage, and take care of the records of the committee; the other was reſerved for Mr. Riſtel, to whom the King had alſo granted a retreat from his office of Librarian, with the benefit of his ſalary as a penſion.

The

The Committee conſiſts of the following members:

The Secretary Mr. Sparrſhoeld, a young gentleman of a diſtinguiſhed literary reputation.

Meſſrs. Debroen, Tellerſtedt, Uttini, Schylander, Algren, and Bioern;* obſerving among themſelves the ſame order as the dates of their engagements in the firſt inſtitution.

Mrs. Marcadet and Miſs Loef, two celebrated actreſſes, one for her talents and the other for her beauty. Miſs Neuman,

* Mr. Bioern is author of ſeveral plays, both for this ſtage and for that of Mr. Stenborg, which have had a remarkable ſucceſs.

Mrs.

Mrs. Loefborg, Miſs Goetz, and Miſs Frank, are remarkable for both, in different degrees.

One Mr. Hiortberg, yet very young, promiſes to be an actor of the firſt merit.

The benefits for the authors are the ſame as from the firſt inſtitution.

Beſides the Royal Theatres, there is ſtill that of Mr. Stenborg, greatly reformed to its advantage by the ſon, Mr. Charles Stenborg already mentioned. Here is now the place for Comic Operas, among which Zemir and Azor, Arſene, and Lucile, are tranſlated from the French by Mrs. Lengren, a lady of eminent literary

literary merit, and have formerly been repreſented at the Court-Theatre, as well as Gripon and Martin tranſlated by Baron Manderſtroem, and Alexis by Mr. Stenborg himſelf.

CHAP-

CHAPTER XXIV.

THE Swediſh language is derived from the Gothic; which, together with the Teutonic, has its origin in the language of the old Scytes. The Gothic dialect, having paſſed through the almoſt uninhabited Northern regions, to Sweden and Denmark, has been leſs altered from its primitive ſource; but the Teutonic, in paſſing through the populous countries ſubmitted to antient Grece, has borrowed from their language the termination of the verbs, and the articles before the nouns, both ſtill preſerved in the modern German

German, and the latter was tranſplanted into the Engliſh language by the Saxons.

Thus the Swediſh and Daniſh, which are almoſt the ſame, have the article at the end of the nouns, as is common in the moſt antient languages; inſtead of which the moderns place it at the beginning; for example, in the word *man*, which is of the ſame ſignification in Swediſh and German as in Engliſh, when it is uſed with the definitive article, as *the man*, in Engliſh, it is *der man* in the German, but *mannen* in the Swediſh.

As to the verbs, a great number have the ſame ſignification in the three languages; but the Swediſh has preſerved

the antient termination in *a*, where the Germans have adopted the Greek *n*; as for example, *give* in Engliſh, is *giva* in Swediſh, *geben* in German.

The Swediſh is the moſt ſonorous, though not in all reſpects the moſt poetical language of the three. The northern nations however have been ſo fond of poetry, that the fountains of all their antient hiſtory are poems or ſongs, in verſes of five, ſix, or ſeven ſyllables; and the word *ſcald*, ſignifies hiſtorian as well as poet. Out of theſe ſongs, compoſed on every memorable occaſion, there are preſerved a great number in the quotations of the hiſtorians who lived in the ninth and tenth centuries; and they are ſuch as

as will bear compariſon with the poetical productions of any age or country.

The introduction of the chriſtian ſyſtem turned the attention of the learned to other ſubjects; and the poetical productions of the middle age, though ſtill the principal fountain of the Swediſh hiſtory for thoſe times, are far beneath the antient ſongs in poetical merit.

The genius of the ſeventeenth century, which ſpread a new light over all Europe, exerted itſelf alſo in Sweden. George Stiernhielm, produced in the glorious reign of Guſtavus Adolphus, was the firſt eminent mathematician, and the firſt poet of his country. One of his poems, en-

titled *Hercules*, had a compliment paid it by King Carolus Guſtavus, which I think was very ſeldom beſtowed on a poem, eſpecially by ſuch an active character as that Monarch. Having heard it read from the beginning to the end without interruption, he only ſaid, " It is pity that it is not longer."

The poetical productions of Count Lindſhoeld, Dahlſtierna, and Count Gyllenborg, under the reigns of Charles XI. and his famous ſon, are ſo many monuments of genius and good taſte; but too few to be compared with thoſe of the celebrated Dalin, who may be looked upon as the founder of Sweden's literary glory.

Having

Having by his writings opened to himſelf the way to the honour of being choſen by the Repreſentatives of the nation to inſtruct the Prince Royal, now King of Sweden, his literary as well as perſonal merit gained him ſo much the eſteem and favour of the late Queen, that we may not be much miſtaken in aſcribing to his influence the eſtabliſhment of the Royal Academy of Belles Lettres, which, in its firſt inſtitution, had the cultivation of the language, and the encouragement of literary talents, for its principal object, and of which Dalin was himſelf the firſt Secretary.

This Society may, as well in reſpect to the Members of which it was compoſed,

as to the authors it has encouraged, be conſidered as the firſt ſeed plot to the eminent talents in that line, which have ſince ſhone forth under the influence and example of Guſtavus III.

But this inſtitution having no other fund for the prizes than the generoſity of the Queen, all would have ceaſed at her death, if her ſon had not taken her eſtabliſhment under his protection, and furniſhed it not only with the means of diſtributing ſeveral prizes every year, but alſo with penſions for ſeveral of the Members.

But from this original inſtitution the King has ſeparated the culture of the Swediſh

Swediſh language; which is now the object of a ſeparate new foundation under the name of the Swediſh Academy, which is provided with penſions and funds for ſeveral annual prizes.

By way of reparation, the ſphere of the other eſtabliſhment has been extended to foreign literature, Egyptian, Greek, and Roman antiquities; the emblematic ſcience; and the ſuperintendency of medals, inſcriptions, and all public monuments in the kingdom. The number of Members has been fixed to fifty; there being ſixteen foreign, fourteen honorary, and twenty ordinary or profeſſed men of letters.

In the firſt mentioned claſs, there have been, to my knowledge, no more than four as yet appointed, viz.

The Cardinal of Bernis, French Ambaſſador at Rome.

The Duke of Nivernois, Lord of the Bed Chamber to the King of France.

P. F. Suhm, Privy Counſellor to the King of Denmark.

M. Pallas, Profeſſor of the Imperial Academy at Peterſburg.

All of literary merit too well known to need further mention here.

In

In the number of Honorary Members, were lately their Excellencies Count Hoepken and Count Charles Frederick Scheffer; the remaining are:

His Excellency Baron Frederic Sparre, Senator of the kingdom, and Knight of the Order of Seraphim, already mentioned.

His Excellency Baron Ranmel, Senator, Knight, and Commander of the Polar Star. His elegant ſtile, and his worthy and amiable character, are equally known in the political world.

His Excellency Count Oxenſtierna, Senator,

nator, Prime Miniſter, and High Marſhal of the Queen's Court, Knight and Commander of the Polar Star; known in the literary world for his immortal Ode upon the death of Guſtavus Adolphus, Roxane, a comedy, and ſeveral other pieces of leſs extent but equal merit.

His Excellency Count Duben, Senator, Miniſter of State, and Commander of the Order of Seraphim. His knowledge in the ſcience of medals, drawings, &c. has entitled him to a place in the Academy.

Doctor van Troil, Archbiſhop of the kingdom, and Commander of the Polar Star. Author of the Voyage to Iceland,

and

and very well verſed in the antiquities of Sweden.

Baron Lejonhufvud, Preſident, and Commander of the Polar Star. He is of well-known merit in the belles lettres.

Baron Adlercrantz, who has the ſuperintendency of public buildings, &c. Commander of the Polar Star, is poſſeſſed of a vaſt knowledge in antiquities, eſpecially thoſe belonging to his ſcience.

Mr. Math. Benzelſtierna, Secretary of State and Commander of the Polar Star; remarkably well verſed in hiſtory.

Count

Count Gyllenborg, Knight of the Polar Star; grandſon to the poet already mentioned, and himſelf the Prince of Poets in Sweden. Beſides ſeveral pieces of fugitive poetry, and a work entitled *The Contempt of the World*, which firſt eſtabliſhed his reputation, he is the author of the dramatic piece of *Birger Jarl*, already mentioned, a tragedy entitled *Sune Jarl*, repreſented both at Court and on the new Swediſh ſtage; and a *Poem* in twelve cantos, upon the victorious paſſage over the Belts and the ſiege of Copenhagen by Carolus Guſtavus King of Sweden. An equal elegance of ſtile and purity of language are the leaſt merits of his work. His love for literature is ſuch, that though

ſon

ſon and grandſon to Senators of the kingdom, and maternal uncle to the preſent Count Oxenſtierna, he has ever preferred his literary occupations to honours for which he ſeemed to be deſtined both by birth and capacity.

Mr. Sten Piper, Marſhal of the Court and Knight of the Polar Star, is known for his tranſlations from Tacitus, and great learning in belles letters.

Baron Schultz van Aſcheraden, Chamberlain and Miniſter Plenipotentiary, &c. is one of the moſt elegant modern writers in the Latin language.

Doctor Olave Celſius, Biſhop of Lund, and

and Commander of the Polar Star, has written the hiſtory of Guſtavus Vaſa and his ſon King Ericus XIV*. as well as an Eccleſiaſtical Hiſtory of Sweden.

The Ordinary Members are:

Mr. J. G. Lillieſtrale, Knight of the Polar Star, and formerly Chief Juſtice of the Kingdom, has a great knowledge of Engliſh and French Literature, and is author of ſeveral Swediſh poems and tranſlations.

Mr. Botin, Knight of the Polar Star, author of a much admired Hiſtory of the Swediſh people, down to the reign of Guſtavus Vaſa.

* Tranſlated into French by Mr. Genet.

Mr.

Mr. J. Elers, Knight of the Polar Star, formerly one of the moſt remarkable Swediſh Poets; but has ſince had too great a part in public affairs, to leave himſelf to his inclination and ſkill in the literary line.

Mr. Schoenberg, Knight of the Polar Star, and Hiſtoriographer of the Kingdom.

Mr. Melanderhielm, Knight of the Polar Star; though a more celebrated Mathematician, he has alſo a remarkable knowledge in belles lettres.

Mr. Roſenſtein, Knight of the Polar Star,

Star, already mentioned in the fourth chapter.

Mr. B. Ferner, Knight of the Polar Star; he ſucceeded formerly to Meſſrs. Dalin and Klingenſtierna, in the inſtruction of the Prince Royal, now King of Sweden.

Mr. J. van Engeſtroem, Knight of the Polar Star, one of the firſt rank among the learned in Numiſmatics and Inſcriptions.

Mr. S. Sernſhoeld, Secretary in the King's Chancery, and remarkable among the learned in Literary Hiſtory.

Mr.

Mr. C. J. Strand, Secretary and Cuſtos of the Archives of the Kingdom, remarkable for an extenſive knowledge in the hiſtory of his country.

Mr. G. Adlerbeth, Knight of the Polar Star, Antiquarian of the Kingdom, and Perpetual Secretary in the Academy of Belles Lettres; beſides his ſkill in the ſciences belonging to his place, he is alſo one of the moſt remarkable Swediſh Poets, and author of ſeveral dramatic pieces, already mentioned.

Mr. A. F. Riſtel, lately Librarian to his Majeſty; he had before obtained four prizes from the Academy, viz. two gold medals, for a poem upon

the Poetic Art, and an Ode upon Conſcience; and two ſilver ones, for an Ode upon Firmneſs of Mind, and a tranſlation of ſeveral ſpeeches in Saluſt; beſides another prize of a gold medal, from the Royal Society of Gothenburg, for a poem on the Revolution 1772.

Mr. J. H. Liden, Profeſſor, and a learned of the firſt claſs in the Literary Hiſtory of Sweden. He has made a preſent of his library to the Univerſity of Upſal, together with funds for the pay of a Librarian.

Mr. J. Muhrberg, Director of the Cathedral School at Stockholm, and one of the beſt grammarians of the Swediſh language;

language; alſo known for his tragedy of Athalia.

Mr. J. Hallenberg, Hiſtoriographer of the Kingdom, has already publiſhed, in the Swediſh language, three volumes of an Univerſal Hiſtory; and is now, by the King's command, at work with the Hiſtory of Guſtavus Adolphus.

Mr. C. G. Nordin, Dean, and Hiſtoriographer of the Royal Orders. He is alſo about compoſing a Diplomatical Hiſtory of Sweden.

Mr. F. J. Neikter, Profeſſor of Eloquence at Upſal.

Mr. Porthan, Profeſſor of Eloquence in the Univerſity of Abo.

Mr. Eberhard, Profeſſor of the Oriental Languages.

All Members preſent in the capital, meet once a week in the Rotunda of the old Royal Palace; where they have alſo their public meetings for the diſtribution of prizes, and the reception of new Members. The regulations are much the ſame as for the Academy of Inſcriptions and Belles Lettres at Paris.

Thoſe of the new Swediſh Academy for the culture of the language, are alſo very nearly formed upon the model of the

the French Academy for the ſame purpoſe; except, that the number of the Members is only eighteen, inſtead of forty.

The late Senators, Count Hoepken, and Count Charles Frederick Scheffer, had alſo the firſt places in this inſtitution. The place of the latter is already filled up, by the choice of the Academy with the approbation of the King, which is always required in both Academies.

Count Scheffer had for his ſucceſſor Mr. Clewberg, his Majeſty's Secretary, having the direction of the Opera, &c. He had made himſelf eminent in the literary line, by a poem on the me-

mory of the late Queen Dowager. He is alſo the author of a dramatic prologue to the opera of Atys, repreſented at the King's return from his tour into Italy and France; a divertiſement on the 19th of Auguſt, in memory of the Revolution; and the third act of the opera ANDROMACHE, which, by his Majeſty's orders, was to be repreſented in ſuch a hurry, that he was obliged to divide the three acts, between Mr. Kellgren, Mr. Riſtel, and himſelf.

Doctor Celſius, already mentioned in the account given of the other Academy; I don't know whether it was the ſtyle of his hiſtorical works, or his poem entitled

titled Guſtavus Vaſa, which prepared him a place in this latter eſtabliſhment.

Mr. Kellgren, Secretary to his Majeſty; He was early known by ſome admired ſatyrical pieces of poetry. He afterwards obtained two great prizes from the former Academy; and his poem on the Graces, under the names of three beauties of the Court already mentioned, might have deſerved a ſtill greater reward. His dramatical works have confirmed his reputation as one of the firſt Poets of Sweden.

His Excellency Count Hermanſon, Senator, and Knight of the Royal Order of Seraphim; he was, under the for-

mer reign, one of the moſt admired writers in the political line.

Doctor Wingord, Biſhop of Gothenburg, and Knight of the Polar Star, is reputed one of the moſt eloquent and pathetic preachers: his funeral ſermon on the late Queen Dowager, and his diſcourſe at the opening of the Diet 1786, abound with a delicacy of expreſſion, equal to that of the ſubject; which is ſaying a great deal.

His Excellency Count Axel Ferſen, often mentioned before. The Swediſh language has ſeldom had a greater force than in his ſpeeches in the Houſe of Nobles.

His

His Excellency Count Oxenſtierna, Member of the former Academy.

Mr. Adlerbeth, Secretary of the ſame Academy.

Mr. Botin, alſo mentioned among the Members of the former Academy.

Mr. Roſenſtein, Perpetual Secretary of the Swediſh Academy, is already known to the reader.

Mr. Schroederheim, Secretary of State, &c. already mentioned. Beſides the moſt diſtinguiſhed talents in his office, he is alſo known in the literary world by his diſcourſe

diſcourſe in memory of the late Senator and High Marſhal Count Lieven.

Count Gyllenborg, mentioned in the account of the former Academy.

Baron Armfelt, Firſt Gentleman or Lord of the Bed Chamber, and Knight of the Royal Order of the Elephant, has given proofs that he is very able to ſhine in the literary ſphere, if his employments at Court and in the army left any part of his time at his own diſpoſal.

Mr. Nordin, already mentioned in the former Academy.

Mr. Leopold, Secretary to his Majeſty, and

and preſent Librarian. His Erotic Odes and a number of fugitive pieces had acquired him great reputation. He is now employed in finiſhing a tragedy, which, I am told, will do as much honour to his country as to the talents of the author.

Mr. Muhrberg, alſo of the Academy of Belles Lettres.

Mr. Sjoeberg, a young poet, elected a Member after having obtained two prizes.

With theſe eighteen, the King himſelf makes commonly the nineteenth; as his Majeſty, when in town, ſeldom miſſes the

the meetings of this Society, any more than thoſe of the Academy of Belles Lettres.

The room for Ordinary Seſſions, once a week, is in the King's Palace. But their ſolemn meetings commonly take place in the Upper Hall of the Royal Exchange, which is alſo uſed for an Aſſembly-Room, as already mentioned.

The tranſactions of this Society will be very intereſting, as it is the duty of one of the Members, every year by turns, to celebrate the memory of ſome illuſtrious perſon of the country, by a public ſpeech at their general meeting in December, on the birth-day of Guſtavus

tavus Adolphus. Medals ſtruck by the Academy of Belles-Lettres, in remembrance of the ſame perſon, are alſo diſtributed on the occaſion.

Beſides the poets who have a place in this or the other Academy, there are ſeveral of diſtinguiſhed talents, among whom ſome are too remarkable to be paſſed over in ſilence.

One is Mr. Torild, who deſpiſes all kind of poetry that is not in the ſtile of Oſſian. He has himſelf written in the ſame taſte, and his poem entitled *The Paſſions* might be taken for a production of that lofty genius he has choſen for his model.

Mr. Lidner

Mr. Lidner has already printed two volumes of his works, in which there is a great deal of originality. His poem on the death of the Counteſs Spaſtara endeavouring to ſave her child out of the flames, and that on the Laſt Judgment, abound in ſublime ideas. One would only wiſh for more correctneſs in the ſtyle. His *Medea* is not yet repreſented, and his tragedy entitled *Chriſtina Gyllenſtierna* is expected with impatience. The heroine of this piece was the conſort of Steno Sture, Adminiſtrator of the Kingdom of Sweden, killed in a battle againſt the Danes. His widow had the courage to oppoſe the approaching enemy, and defended the capital for a long time againſt Chriſtiernus II. and did not give it up before

fore he had granted to the Swedes a peace on very honourable conditions, which however he no longer obſerved, than till it was in his power to break them.

CHAP-

CHAPTER XXV.

AS in the courſe of this work there have been mentioned ſeveral Knights and Commanders of the Royal Orders in Sweden, a particular account of them may not be diſagreeable to the reader.

They are for the preſent four; viz. the Order of Seraphim; that of the Sword, or the Military Order; that of the Polar Star; and the Order of Vaſa.

The Royal Order of Seraphim is the moſt antient as well as the moſt honourable. This Order is mentioned and deſcribed

deſcribed in Swediſh acts ſo far back as the thirteenth century. It is uncertain whether it be of Swediſh inſtitution, or has been introduced in that country with the many ſtrangers of birth and diſtinction who frequented the Court of King Magnus Birgerſſon, on occaſion of the ſplendid tournaments given by that magnificent Prince; to whoſe judicious choice and engaging manners Sweden is indebted for many illuſtrious foreign families eſtabliſhed in that country.

During the union which followed between the three northern kingdoms under one government, this Order fell into diſuſe. The title of *Knight* remained always the principal diſtinction among the nobles; the

ornament of a *gold chain* was alſo peculiar to the Knights; but theſe chains were made in different manners; the original form was not reſtored before the year 1748, when King Fredericus re-eſtabliſhed this antient Order as well as that of the ſword.

The mark of the Order of Seraphim is a white Roman croſs in the form of a ſtar, and four heads of Seraphs, round a light-blue globe which occupies the middle of the croſs, and is marked in white with the letters I. H. S. initials of the words *Ieſus Hominum Salvator*, which is the motto of the Order.

This Star is worn embroidered upon the

the left breaſt on the coat, and on the ſame ſide of the mantle; and alſo enamelled at the ends of a large light blue ribbon, paſſed over the ſhoulder from the right ſide to the left.

On the feſtivals of the Order, ſuch as the Monday preceding the Advent, and the 28th of April every year, the enamelled ſtar is worn about the neck in a chain which is alſo enamelled, and compoſed of heads of Seraphs between the double croſſes of Jeruſalem, in gold and white.

The Ceremonial Dreſs or Habit of the Order, is in the old Spaniſh faſhion, all of white ſattin, and edged with black

lace. The round hat and the ſhoes are alſo of ſattin.

The duty of the Knights is to defend orphans and widows, take care of the ſick and poor, with other charitable works of the ſame kind. Wherefore the hoſpitals, lazarettos, and other ſuch inſtitutions are always under the immediate inſpection of the Chancellor of this Order; and all the Members are bound to give a certain ſum for ſuch purpoſes.

The number of the Knights is limited to twenty four, not comprehending the King of Sweden, Grand Maſter of the Order, and the Princes of the Royal Family, who are all created at their birth.

According

According to the ſtatutes, none below the rank of a Lieutenant-General can be admitted a Member of the Order.

The preſent King of Sweden has eſtabliſhed one condition more, viz. an uninterrupted noble deſcent of at leaſt four generations, both from father and mother.

As there are ſeveral eminent perſonages in Sweden, who, by their own merit, have raiſed themſelves to the dignity of Counts and Barons; and as even the antient Nobility have not been very ſcrupulous, in theſe latter times, to impart the ſplendor of their name in exchange for a rich inheritance for their children, by marriages into the families

of merchants, there are ſeveral Members of the Senate excluded from this honor. On the great promotion, by occaſion of the birth of the King's ſecond ſon, the Senator Baron Bunge was by the date of his election, as well as by his perſonal merit, perhaps the moſt entitled to this honour; and as the King could not avoid granting him ſome ſhare in the Royal favours which were diſtributed, his Majeſty preferred making him a Count, rather than to deviate from the new-eſtabliſhed plan.

The King has ſince found means to elude his own regulation, in favour of ſome perſons of leſs antient birth, but whom his Majeſty was yet deſirous of favouring

favouring with the Blue Ribbon, the higheſt point of ambition in Sweden.

For this purpoſe has been inſtituted the dignity of Commanders of all the Royal Orders. They wear in their common dreſs the ſame marks as the Knights of Seraphim, but are not allowed the Chain or Collar of the Order on feſtivals.

This new degree was offered to his Excellency Count Bunge; but with the greateſt proteſtations of gratitude for the honour intended him, he begged to be excuſed the acceptance of it.

Thoſe who as yet are inveſted with this dignity, are, to my knowledge, only

their Excellencies Baron Lilljencrantz and Baron Duben.

The Order of the Sword is alſo very antient in Sweden. It was introduced perhaps from Livonia and Pruſſia, where this Order has been very famous.

King Ericus XIV. the ſon of Guſtavus Vaſa, made an attempt to reſtore this Order to its former conſideration; but the unhappy fate of this King brought it again into neglect.

King Fredericus was more ſucceſsful; and the admiſſion into this Order is now looked on as the higheſt reward for military merit.

There

There were formerly only two claſſes, Knights and Commanders. The preſent King has ſeparated the laſt into two degrees; Commanders with the Great Croſs or Star, and thoſe who wear only the Ribbon. Both are ſuperior to the Knights, who bear only the Star on a ſmall ribbon in the button-hole.

The Star is a Grecian croſs with four crowns in the intervals, around a blue globe marked with a golden ſword ſtanding upright, the point in a garland of laurels, with the motto *Pro Rege et Patria.*

The great Star on the left breaſt is embroidered in ſilver; that on the Ribbon,

as

as well as on the Collar of Ceremony, is enamelled in white and gold; the Collar or Chain the ſame.

The Habit of Ceremony is in the Spaniſh cuſtom, but with a long training mantle. The whole of light-blue velvet, lined with white ſattin.

The number in all the claſſes is unlimited, as it certainly ought to be, in a nation diſtinguiſhed for military merit.

The third Order, a new inſtitution of King Fredericus, is that of the Polar Star; deſtined for perſons of eminent merit in the political, civil, and literary line.

The

The Star or mark of the Order is a white enamelled Roman Croſs, in the middle of which is a blue globe, with a gold ſtar, and motto, *Neſcit occaſum*, in alluſion to the polar ſtar, which is always at the ſame height. The globe is ſurrounded with four golden Royal crowns, in the intervals of the croſs.

In this Order there are but two claſſes, Knights and Commanders. The former wear the Star on a black ribbon in the button hole; the latter on a large black ribbon round the neck. The Commanders have alſo a large Star, embroidered in ſilver on the left breaſt, on their coat as well as mantle.

The

The dreſs on feſtivals is Spaniſh, with a long mantle; the whole of crimſon velvet lined with white ſattin. The collar is compoſed of ſtars between the double cypher of the inſtitutor, all enamelled in white, blue, and gold.

The number of the Commanders is limited to twenty-four, and that of the Knights to forty-eight.

To theſe Royal Orders King Guſtavus has added one more, the Order of Vaſa, inſtituted in memory of the great founder of his race as well as predeceſſor upon the Swediſh throne, Guſtavus I. of the noble family of Vaſa.

All the antient nobility of Sweden were in the ſame caſe with the old Romans, having no other profeſſion than that of agriculture, and no other obligation than the defence of their country. Thoſe who lived in the Court, and attended on the King, were looked upon as an inferior claſs, in reſpect to thoſe who confined themſelves within their own families, and took care of their private affairs. One may therefore ſay that the moſt antient nobility in Sweden owe their riſe to agriculture. The eſtate formerly cultivated by the anceſtors of the Vaſas, and which ſtill bears their name, is ſituated in the province of Uplandia, near the road which leads from Stockholm to Nortelge; and is now in the poſſeſſion of

of Colonel Lilljehorn, by his marriage with the daughter of the late Baron Danckwart of Sigridſholm.

To encourage ſo noble a profeſſion, King Guſtavus, on the feſtivity of his coronation, inſtituted this Order; and it is in conſequence given to thoſe among the Nobility and Gentry who live on their eſtates, and by diſtinguiſhing themſelves in the different branches of rural œconomy, give a uſeful example to others, who are leſs provided with the means of making new experiments for encreaſing the value of lands, and extending the knowledge of improvements invented in other countries.

Great

Great artiſts may alſo aſpire to the honour of this Order. The late Mr. Liungberger, a celebrated engraver of medals, and Mr. Sergel, an eminent ſculptor, have already been encouraged with that flattering diſtinction.

The marks of this Order are the arms of the Royal Family of Vaſa, in gold, within an oblong red circle, inſcribed in gold with the name of King Guſtavus III. inſtitutor of the Order.

It is attached to a ribbon of a mineral green, which the Knights wear round the neck, and the Commanders over the right ſhoulder to the left ſide. Theſe latter wear alſo a large Star embroidered in ſilver

ſilver on their coats and mantles, on the left breaſt.

The Habit of Ceremony is green velvet lined with white ſatin, made in the ſame manner as thoſe of the Orders of the Sword and the Polar Star.

The number of the Knights is limited to fifty, and that of the Commanders to twelve, though I never knew any more than four to have been appointed, viz. the late Baron Degeer, father to the preſent Baron Charles Degeer; Baron Ramel of Malteſholm, father to his Excellency Baron Ramel; the General Baron Duval, now Knight of the Order of Seraphim; and Baron Claes Alſtroemer.

The

The number of the Knights is compleated, and there are ſtill more than fifty candidates at every vacancy.

The Knights of the Order of Seraphim have a right to wear the marks of all the others, except that of Vaſa. The King himſelf, and the Chancellor of the Royal Orders, are the only Knights of Seraphim who are entitled to the marks of the Order of Vaſa, and they commonly wear it on a ſmall ribbon in the button hole.

Beſides the Habit of Great Ceremony, there is another made in the ordinary Swediſh cuſtom, and uſed on Gala days,

and other ſolemn occaſions that have no relation to the Royal Orders.

For the three inferior Orders, the colours are the ſame as in their dreſs of ceremony before mentioned; but for the Knights of Seraphim, it is purple velvet with gold, and has the moſt magnificent appearance.

On ſuch occaſions, the Princes of the Royal Family have a particular dreſs, white and ſilver, made in the old Burgundic cuſtom.

Beſides the Orders already mentioned, there was an Order of great note 150 years

years ago, inſtituted by Queen Chriſtina, daughter of the great Guſtavus Adolphus. This Order was known under the name of Amaranth, and is ſtill preſerved in a ſociety of private inſtitution, which aſſembles once a fortnight for dancing and other innocent amuſements. It was ſaid the King had an intention to re-eſtabliſh this Order upon new principles, among which that of the firſt conſideration was; that every perſon who ſhould be admitted into the fraternity muſt have a certain number of noble anceſtors. The fair ſex could alſo receive this honour on the ſame conditions. This might have afforded a pretext for decorating perſons who had no merit of their own. But

after

after the breach between the King and the Nobles, this project, if there was any, has been laid aſide, and will not probably be revived.

F I N I S.

16 OC 65